

Dajani visits Mafrq Governorate

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Rajai Dajani Monday stressed the importance of citizens' awareness of their duties and responsibilities towards their country and government, saying that they are two main causes for achieving progress and contributing to success. During an open dialogue with citizens, while on a tour of Mafrq Governorate, Mr. Dajani paid tribute to the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, saying that it has provided the country with stability and security, which constitute the main pillars of comprehensive development. In answer to questions on the creation of new administrative units, Mr. Dajani said such units will be created in accordance with geographical, demographic and productive givings in order to ensure harmony between services and needs of citizens.

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Soviets deny testing new ICBM

MOSCOW (R) — The Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Strategic Rocket Forces, army Gen. Yuri Maksimov, Monday denied U.S. allegations that Moscow had begun testing a new heavy intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). Gen. Maksimov told the Communist Party newspaper Pravda that a recent claim by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Perle that a new fifth-generation ICBM was being developed in violation of the SALT-2 treaty was "absolutely groundless." "We are not developing any such heavy missile," Gen. Maksimov said, declaring that Washington had advanced the allegations in a vain attempt to justify its breach of SALT-2 last year.

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Senate convenes Wednesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Wednesday presides over the Senate's meeting, which will be attended by the Cabinet members. The Senate will refer a number of draft laws to its various committees for debate and approval.

Explosions hit Beirut government offices

BEIRUT (R) — Bombs exploded in two Lebanese government buildings Monday, injuring one person and causing damage. A package blew up in a central post office in Muslim west Beirut, seriously injuring an official, the police said. Another device exploded in a guardroom of the west Beirut building housing the Information and Tourism Ministries and state-owned Beirut Radio, they added.

Evren to attend Islamic summit

ANKARA (R) — Turkish President Kenan Evren will go to Kuwait on Jan. 25 to take part in the Islamic summit, his office said Monday.

Murphy goes to Saudi Arabia

LUXOR, Egypt (AP) — Special U.S. envoy Richard Murphy left Egypt Monday afternoon for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, air controllers said. Mr. Murphy, an assistant secretary of state on a tour to assess prospects for reviving the peace process in the Middle East, had flown earlier Monday from Cairo to this ancient Egyptian capital for a day's sightseeing.

Gonzalez in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez arrived for a four-day official visit to Egypt and talks expected to cover Europe's role in Middle East peace moves. Mr. Gonzalez, who flew in from Tunis, met Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki and attended an official banquet Monday evening. He is also expected to meet President Hosni Mubarak, who visited Spain in 1985, during his stay.

Jaruzelski arrives in Italy

ROME (R) — Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski, breaking through the wall of isolation that has surrounded his country since the 1981 imposition of martial law, Monday began a three-day official visit to Italy. He lunched with President Francesco Cossiga soon after his arrival and later held talks with Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. He will have talks with Pope John Paul Tuesday.

Fitzwater to succeed Speakes at White House

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House said Monday veteran government information officer Martin Fitzwater would replace Larry Speakes as President Reagan's chief spokesman on Feb. 1. Speakes is leaving the administration to work for the Wall Street investment firm Merrill Lynch.

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Iraq reports fresh air raids on Iranian towns

Kheirallah urges Iranians to surrender

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq reported intensive air raids on five Iranian centres Monday as its troops fought fiercely against an Iranian invasion force which crossed into Iraq on Friday east of the southern port city of Basra.

A military spokesman said the cities and towns of Qom, Esfahan, Borujerd, Arak and Kashan, all in a mountainous region south of Tehran, were attacked.

(Iran said more than 100 civilians were killed and over 400 wounded in Iraqi air raids Monday.)

A report from Baghdad Radio's correspondent at the battlefield said Iraqi jets were also in action, with helicopter gunships, against invading Iranian forces he said were trapped near the Fish Lake battle zone.

Iraq's Defence Minister General Adnan Kheirallah told newsmen the Iranians were "engulfed in the killing zone" of Iraq's Third and Seventh Army Corps and he urged them to surrender.

Iraqi war bulletins said at least 12 Iranian divisions, mainly the paramilitary Revolutionary Guards, were "destroyed" in battles involving tanks, heavy artillery and air force support.

A clandestine Iranian opposition radio station, heard in Baghdad, said Iran had lost huge numbers of casualties, including many high-ranking officers.

5 killed in new Israeli raid on Maghdousheh

SIDON (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes raided Palestinian and Shiite Muslim positions in South Lebanon on Monday, killing at least five guerrillas and wounding 14 in Israel's third attack this year.

Six jets carried out seven bombing, rocketing and strafing sorties as of 1:40 p.m. (1140 GMT) against commando positions around the towering hilltop statue of the Virgin Mary in the Christian town of Maghdousheh, police reported.

The raid targeted positions manned by commandos of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's mainline Fatah group, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the pro-Libyan Palestine Popular Struggle Front, they said.

Adjacent positions manned by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, or Party of God, were also targeted in the raid on Maghdousheh, five kilometres south east of Sidon, police said.

They said Israeli pilots released hot air balloons that deflected Soviet-made SA-7 Strella surface-to-air missiles fired from Palestinian positions in Sidon's refugee camps of Ain Al Hilweh and Mieh Mieh.

Dublin, expressing anger, summons Israeli envoy over Irish soldiers' death

DUBLIN (R) — Irish Foreign Minister Peter Barry summoned Israel's ambassador to express Dublin's anger over the shooting of an Irish soldier with the U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The Israeli ambassador in London, Yehuda Avner, who also covers the Irish Republic, was called by the Foreign Ministry to Dublin Tuesday as a diplomatic row erupted over the soldier's death on Sunday.

An Israeli army spokeswoman said Sunday night that 33-year-old Corporal Dermot McGlooghin had been killed accidentally when troops fired at "a large gang of terrorists" close to a position held by UNIFIL troops.

Foreign Minister Peter Barry said Ambassador Avner would be informed of Ireland's "strong and trenchant complaint" over the shooting and left in no doubt about Dublin's anger.

"I want to tell the ambassador of our great concern that a country

Air attacks were also reported on an Iranian railway station used for military traffic 50 kilometres north of Khorramshahr. The military spokesman said a large number of people were killed. Other aircraft hit a "naval target," — taken to mean a merchant ship — near the Iranian coast at 11:30 a.m. (0830 GMT), the spokesman said.

Jets also attacked the west Iranian military camp of Hameed, inflicting heavy losses among Revolutionary Guards, he added.

A Baghdad military spokesman also denied Iranian reports that 29 Iraqi aircraft had been downed in the past four days and said only five had been lost.

LT-Gen. Abdul Jabbar Muhsen, director of the Iraqi army's Political Guidance Bureau, told a news conference in Baghdad that Iraqi forces have "purged" most of the positions the Iranians seized in their Karbala-5 offensive near the southern port of Basra.

He said the Iranians were

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Prince Hassan hails Iraqi army

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday received a telephone call from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, who briefed him on the situation at the battle front. Prince Hassan hailed the Iraqi army and people, who are standing firmly in the face of the aggression against the whole Arab Nation, saying that they are defending the Arab dignity and safeguarding Arab rights. Prince Hassan expressed Jordan's pride in and appreciation to the heroic battles Iraqi army is fighting under the leadership of President Hussein.

Syria to attend Islamic summit

ABU DHABI (R) — Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam was quoted Monday as saying Syria would attend the Islamic summit due to begin in Kuwait on Jan. 26 and opposed by its ally Iran.

But Mr. Khaddam told the semi-official United Arab Emirates daily Al Itihad during a stopover in Sharjah on his way to China that Syria would not put pressure on Iran to take part in the meeting.

Iran has urged the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to switch the summit from Kuwait because of the Gulf emirate's support for Iraq in the Gulf war.

"Iran is an independent and sovereign state which takes appropriate decisions," Mr. Khaddam said.

He did not specify whether President Hafez Al Assad would lead Syria's delegation to the conference.

He said Syria would focus at the summit on "Zionist aggression supported by American imperialism, given that the Zionist presence in Palestine is the greatest danger threatening the Arabs and Muslims."

Mr. Khaddam arrived in Peking Monday, the first top Syrian official to visit China since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1956, the New China News Agency reported.

Mr. Khaddam is scheduled to hold talks with Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang Tuesday.

Mr. Khaddam on Sunday discussed with Pakistani leaders the forthcoming Islamic summit and the Afghan situation, said Pakistan news agency (APP) said.

Mr. Khaddam, stopping in Islamabad on the way to China, called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and was invited to pay a longer visit to Pakistan in the future.

APP said they had a comprehensive exchange of views and discussed the Jan. 26-29 Islamic summit, due to be held in Kuwait despite Iranian protests that it would be used for anti-Iranian Gulf war propaganda.

The two men also discussed prospects for a political settlement of the eight-year-old conflict in Afghanistan.

Iranian gunboats attack tanker in Gulf

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — An Iranian gunboat fired two artillery rounds at a Liberian-registered tanker as it cruised toward the Strait of Hormuz in the Gulf waters carrying Kuwaiti fuel oil to Italy, Gulf-based marine salvage executives reported Monday.

The Atlantic Dignity, loaded with 80,000 tonnes of fuel oil, was attacked some 16 kilometres from the strategic water channel, through which pass oil tankers carrying Gulf oil to the West and the Far East, said the executives who refused to be identified.

The United States, Britain and France maintain naval task forces in the Gulf. All three nations have vowed to protect the Strait of Hormuz and keep it open to navigation.

The vessel was intercepted by the Iranians and shadowed for about five hours before a gunboat fired two artillery rounds into it, hitting the tanker just above the waterline, they said.

The executives said signals from the ship indicated a fire was started aboard, but that the Atlantic Dignity sailed on, through the channel. They said it had cleared the waterway by 'daybreak. No casualties were reported.

They gave the location of the tanker at the time of the attack as 26.30 degrees latitude east and 56.21 degrees north longitude.

The Atlantic Dignity is owned by the Hong Kong-based Island Navigation Company.

It was the 4th tanker to be attacked by Iran in eight days. Two of the previous targets also were carrying Kuwaiti oil and one, the Norwegian Berge Saga, was carrying petroleum cargo from the United Arab Emirates.

Since September, Iran has been selecting vessels flying the Kuwaiti flag or carrying Kuwaiti oil for attacks in the so-called tanker war.

"The Iranians have selected yet another tanker with a Kuwaiti oil shipment in what appears to be a bid to clamp a siege on Kuwaiti oil exports," said one Kuwait-based maritime shipping agent.

Kuwait is the Gulf Arab country closest to warring Iraq and Iran. Iranian leaders have accused Kuwait of bias toward Iraq in the 6-year-old Gulf war.

Tehran has stepped up attacks on Kuwaiti vessels after it rejected the convening of an Islamic summit conference scheduled for Jan. 26 in Kuwait, saying the venue was "not safe."

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are the key bankrollers of Iraq. The two countries are said to have given Iraq \$35 billion in aid since the war broke out in September 1980.

Bomb thrown at Israeli soldiers' quarters in Hebron

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A petrol bomb was thrown at Israeli soldiers' quarters in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron, but caused no damage or injuries, police said.

In a separate development an Israeli man was slightly wounded in his head Sunday when Palestinian youngsters threw stones at Israeli-owned cars in the West Bank town of Nablus, Israel Radio reported.

It said the man was treated at a local military clinic after two Israeli-owned cars were hit by stones thrown by Palestinians.

The radio did not give any further details and declined to name the wounded man. According to an army report, 80 Israeli-owned cars were damaged in December 1986 by stones thrown by Palestinians in the West Bank, which Israel occupied during the 1967 Middle East war.

Meanwhile the military court in Nablus sentenced a Birzeit University lecturer, Salah Abdul Jawad, to 39 days in prison, a six months suspended sentence and 2,500 shekels (\$1,670) penalty, Israel Radio reported.

The radio reported that Prof. Abdul Jawad would not serve any time in jail since he already spent 39 days under arrest.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor are seen off by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad at Amman Airport prior to Their Majesties' departure to France Monday (Petra Photo)

King, Queen arrive in Paris

PARIS (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived Monday for three days of talks with President Francois Mitterrand and French government officials focusing on prospects for progress in the Middle East peace process.

King Hussein, accompanied by Queen Noor, was met at Orly Airport by Mr. Mitterrand. On their return to the Presidential Elysee Palace they began their first meeting.

Upon Their Majesties' arrival, President Mitterrand expressed satisfaction at the strong bilateral relations between the two countries. He said "We have been looking forward to your visit to France."

King Hussein thanked Mr. Mitterrand for the warm and friendly welcome and hospitality they accorded to him, Queen Noor and the accompanying delegation, and stressed the importance he attaches to his visit to France.

King Hussein also praised the Jordanian-French relations and cooperation and expressed the hope that their meeting will enhance ties of cooperation between France and Arab countries.

King Hussein also praised France's supportive position of peoples rights and said that France has provided the whole world with the principles of the French

Revolution. The King was expected to seek France's support for persuading the United States and Israel of the need to call an international conference on the Middle East. Those countries say they favour direct talks between Israel and its opponents instead of a multilateral conference.

Before leaving France, the King is to go Wednesday to Toulouse for a visit to the National Space Study Centre and the installations of Aérospatiale and Airbus-Industrie.

Upon their departure from Amman Their Majesties were seen off at the airport by Prince Mohammad, His Majesty's personal representative. Her Royal Highness Princess Taghreed, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, members of the Royal Family, Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akef Al Fayez.

Also bidding farewell were Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, Cabinet members, senior military and civil officials, the French Charge d'Affaires in Amman, and Italian Ambassador to Jordan.

Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent during King Hussein's absence, in the presence of the Cabinet members.

Also leaving on Monday was a

delegation representing the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Arab Bank.

The delegation comprised Mr. Hamdi Tabba'a, president of the Jordanian Federation of Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Issam Budeir, chairman of Amman Chamber of Industry and Mr. Khalid Shouman, chairman of the board of directors of Arab Bank.

The delegation will join the officials accompanying King Hussein and Queen Noor.

They are expected to make contacts with French economic and financial corporations which could contribute to the five-year development plan of Jordan.

King Hussein said Monday peace in the Middle East would be very easy to achieve once Israel agrees to withdraw from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, recognises the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people on their soil and decides to live in peace with its neighbours without the tendency for hegemony and expansion.

The King said that hiding behind procedural issues and repeated calls for direct negotiations is no longer acceptable after occupied Jerusalem and the Golan Heights had been annexed and more than half the area of the West Bank has been seized.

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Khatib arrives in Damascus to join Arab League 'camps war' mission

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib arrived in Damascus Monday to represent Jordan in the seven-member Arab committee set up by the Arab League Council to find means to end the "camps war" in Lebanon.

He "is greeted upon arrival by Syrian Information Minister Yassin Rajouh and other officials. Also included in the committee

are foreign ministers from Algeria, Kuwait, North Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia and the Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kibi.

The committee members will be holding contacts with parties involved in the current fighting around the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

At least 700 people have been killed in the fighting.

The committee would start their talks by meeting Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa on Tuesday and might see President Hafez Al Assad, political sources said.

"Because Syria has a strong role in Lebanon the committee hoped Syria would give all its efforts to help a ceasefire," the Algerian minister, who heads the committee, told reporters.

French outpost comes under attack in Chad

N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP) — An apparently small number of Libyan troops made a hit-and-run attack on the town of Kalait, south of the red line at the 10th parallel that divides Chad into government-held and Libyan-occupied halves, an informed source said Monday.

There were no further details about the action Sunday night at Kalait, said the source, who spoke on condition that he not be identified.

In Paris, the French Defence Ministry confirmed there had been "two 15-minute harassment" of French and Chadian units at Kalait Sunday night. It said there were no casualties among the few dozen French troops there helping with Chadians with logistics. It gave no information about possible Chadian casualties.

Libya's JANA news agency, monitored in Paris, said there were "no Libyan troops in the Kalait region," but that there were forces of the Chadian rebel "transitional government" headed by Achick Ibn Omar there.

Kalait is near the town of Oum Chalouba and just south of the demarcation line below which the

French, backing the N'Djamena government of President Hissene Habre, have said they will not tolerate Libyan military activity.

There was no word on casualties, but the source said the Libyan move did not appear to be a serious attack and most likely involved a small number who fired a few shots and retreated back into the desert.

The Libyans have been stung by a series of setbacks in the north. Former northern rebels, who rallied to Mr. Habre's government and were later joined by government troops, have been holding off a month-old Libyan effort to take control of the north western Tibesti Mountain region.

The main supply route from Libya to garrisons further south, including Libya's major base at the oasis of Faya Largeau, passes through the Tibesti Mountains. Without control, the Libyans must resupply by air.

On Jan. 2, Mr. Habre's forces routed the Libyan garrison at Fada, north of the red line, claiming to have killed 784 Libyans and captured 81, with large amounts of equipment destroyed or captured.

U.S. provided wrong data to Iraq, Iran, paper says

NEW YORK (Agencies) — U.S. intelligence agencies deliberately provided Iran and Iraq with inaccurate data in recent years in an effort to keep either side from getting ahead in the six-year-old Gulf war, the New York Times said Monday.

In what it described as a "disinformation campaign," the newspaper quoted U.S. intelligence sources as saying the agencies distorted data provided to both countries in order to further Reagan administration goals in the region.

It said examples of the inaccurate information included: — Giving Iran exaggerated assessments of a Soviet troop buildup on its border making the threat seem greater than it was. — Providing Iraq with information gleaned from satellite photographs that had been altered to make it misleading or incomplete.

The article quoted State Department officials as acknowledging that simultaneously selling weapons to Iran and providing it with unreliable intelligence information seemed contradictory.

When asked how all the pieces of this U.S. policy fit together, one former State Department official was quoted as saying: "You had to have been there."

The policy in these secret dealings reflected the thinking of such senior officials as CIA Director William Casey and former National Security Advisor John Poindexter and were carried out without consulting the Pentagon or the State Department, the paper quoted a White House aide as saying.

In a memo that became public last year, Adm. Poindexter was shown to favour of planting false information in the press in a

disinformation campaign against Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi, the newspaper said.

Meanwhile the head of a U.S. Senate panel probing secret arms sales to Iran and the diversion of funds to Nicaraguan rebels has said it appears laws were broken, but it is too soon to be certain.

"I think it's too early to reach a conclusion that for sure laws have been broken," Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman David Boren said Sunday on NBC Television.

However, the Oklahoma Democrat added: "It certainly would appear that laws have been broken."

Potential violations of the law would relate to the handling of the funds paid by Iran for the arms, the diversion of funds to the Nicaraguan rebels or contras, and whether the administration met its legal obligation of keeping Congress informed, he said.

Meanwhile, a steady stream of press reports which further questioned the propriety of the Iranian arms sales and the handling of the money used to pay for them emerged as President Reagan spent the weekend in the White House recovering from prostate surgery.

The New York Times reported it had discovered that more individuals knew of efforts to sell arms to Iran than has been acknowledged, and that the quantity of weapons was far larger than has been made public, and that two U.S. army colonels have been implicated in a scheme to profit from the sales.

The Washington Post said congressional investigators had evidence that millions of dollars were missing from the U.S. and Israeli arms sales to Iran.

And the Los Angeles Times quoted a draft report by the Senate intelligence panel saying Israel had sent Soviet-made weapons to the contras, who are fighting Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government.

Israel has denied providing arms for the contras, but the newspaper said other sources in Washington and Central America have said Israel has supplied guns and ammunition to the contras since 1983, including Soviet-made equipment captured from the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Israel was also implicated in efforts to supply the contras in a Washington Post story on Saturday which reported that the Senate intelligence panel had been told an envoy to the then Israeli prime minister, Shimon Peres, initiated the idea of diverting funds to the rebels.

The newspaper said a secret Senate Intelligence Committee report attributed the proposal to Peres' special assistant, Amir Nir.

In Tel Aviv, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Peres denied the allegations.

The affair so far has resulted in the resignation of White House National Security Advisor John Poindexter and the firing of a key aide, Lt. Col. Oliver North.

On Saturday, the New York Times reported Col. North had coordinated arms shipments to the contras through Portugal.

The shipments through Portugal threw doubt on White House denials that it had defied a congressional ban on aid for the

contras, the New York Times said.

In Washington a member of the Senate intelligence panel said Mr. Reagan, relying on advice from "amateurs," kept the Iranian arms initiative alive even when such shipments did not cause the release of all the American hostages in Lebanon.

In its investigation of the arms sales, the Senate Intelligence Committee found that Mr. Reagan kept the programme going despite misgivings by senior advisers and the intelligence committee, said Republican Senator William Cohen.

The investigation is looking into the most serious crisis ever faced by Mr. Reagan — the sale of arms to Iran and the diversion of millions of dollars in from the sale to Nicaraguan contras.

Sen. Cohen said that in pursuing his Iran policy, Mr. Reagan "eliminated the Congress, and the secretary of state and others... from the process and placed it in the hands of a few White House operatives."

"He cannot now, in my judgment, escape responsibility for the actions of those individuals," said Sen. Cohen, who termed them "amateurs."

Sen. Cohen praised Mr. Reagan for trying to win the release of Americans held by pro-Iranian forces in Lebanon and to find a diplomatic opening to Iran. But he criticised the president for not following "sound and seasoned" advice.

"He, in fact, took foreign policy underground" against the objections of Secretary of State George Shultz, Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger and other top aides, Sen. Cohen said.

O'Connor criticises Jewish leaders

By Rick Hampson
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Cardinal John O'Connor said Sunday he has been "pilloried" by the "censure" of American Jewish leaders who criticised statements he made during a trip to Israel and Jordan.

Having undertaken "the most difficult trip of my life... at great personal and professional risk to myself," Cardinal O'Connor said, "I must confess deep, deep disappointment to be told, in effect, that a censure has been issued by the leaders of so many groups."

"My trip could produce a good deal of fruit," he said, an apparent reference to Middle East peace and Vatican-Israeli relations.

"That fruit could be destroyed by the kind of statement the papers are reporting."

"I have never been so pilloried," O'Connor said.

On Saturday, the day O'Connor returned from his nine-day trip, 53 major Jewish organisations released a 350-word statement in which they expressed little direct criticism of O'Connor but said they were "disquieted and distressed" by some things the prelate reportedly said on his trip.

They cited only one example: O'Connor's speculation, upon emerging from the Holocaust museum, that the systematic execution of European Jews "may be an enormous gift that Judaism has given the world."

While conceding that the cardinal "clearly was profoundly moved by his visit" to the museum, the groups termed his comment "disturbing and painful." Cardinal O'Connor said the comment stemmed from his belief in the redemptive power of suffering and was meant as a "tremendous compliment to the Jewish people."

The cardinal stressed Sunday that he had not read the group's statement, he was not sent a copy, he complained — but was responding to newspaper reports.

Morris Abram, head of the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organisations, said Sunday that the Jewish leaders meant to "set the record straight," not fault Cardinal O'Connor. "Only time will tell if the trip has been a plus," he said.

"There was no censure intended and none executed," he said.

Meanwhile, an Arab-American spokesman praised Cardinal O'Connor's trip and said the criticism by American Jews hurts the cause of Middle East peace.

"O'Connor is a man of peace and humanity who wanted to soothe various feelings of people who have been hurt," Dr. Mohammad Mehdi, secretary general of the National Council on Islamic Affairs, said Sunday.

"Jewish groups are so 100 per cent in their thinking, so black and white, that they're denying (O'Connor) the opportunity to be a middle ground," he said.

Waite resumes bid to free hostages

BEIRUT (R) — British Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite arrived in Beirut Monday to resume negotiations with Lebanese kidnappers for the release of Western hostages in Lebanon.

The burly, bearded envoy of the Archbishop of Canterbury arrived at Beirut airport aboard a Middle East Airlines (MEA) flight from London on his first visit to Lebanon this year.

Eighteen foreigners are missing believed kidnapped in Lebanon.

An eyewitness said Mr. Waite was escorted from the plane by more than a dozen Muslim militiamen and was driven in two closed jeeps to an unknown destination in mainly Muslim west Beirut.

He looked cheerful and hugged some of the militiamen after leaving the plane. Asked by reporters if he planned to hold a news conference, he said: "No, I don't think so. Not for the moment, anyway."

Asked if his mission involved only American hostages, he

replied: "I am concerned with all hostages."

An eyewitness said gunmen pointed their automatic rifles out of the jeep windows as they drove through the crowded Ouzai area.

"When they were stuck in a traffic jam, two gunmen left the jeeps and opened way for the vehicles," the eyewitness said.

In London, a church spokeswoman told Reuters Mr. Waite began his trip after receiving guarantees from Beirut that every effort would be made to ensure his safety during negotiations.

Beirut airport, controlled by the Shiite Muslim Amal militia, was closed for three days last week after shelling which destroyed one plane and damaged another as it landed with 126 people aboard.

Mr. Waite, who has been involved in negotiations for the release of foreigners held in Iran, Libya and Lebanon, told an Italian television interviewer last Friday his negotiations in Beirut were normally conducted with a

pistol in his back.

On his last visit in November, Mr. Waite left Beirut on a U.S. helicopter with freed American David Jacobson, who had been held by the pro-Iranian "Islamic Jihad" (holy war) for 17 months.

Islamic Jihad still holds two Americans, journalist Terry Anderson and university dean Thomas Sutherland, and three Frenchmen — diplomats Marcel Fontaine and Marcel Carton and journalist Jean-Paul Kaufmann.

The group has said it killed U.S. diplomat William Buckley and French researcher Michel Saurat, but their bodies have not been found. Mr. Jacobson said after his release he believed Buckley was dead.

Jacobson's release sparked initial reports of the U.S.-Iran arms-for-hostages deal and Mr. Waite has said the secret deal with Tehran had made his role as mediator more difficult by driving some of his key contacts in Beirut underground.

Sharon urges fight against Palestinians

TEL AVIV (R) — Hardline Trade Minister Ariel Sharon said Israel should fight Palestinian commandos operating from Egypt and Jordan before pursuing contacts with Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

Sharon Sunday night told members of his right-wing Herut Movement: "There's a need to establish — before any contact, before any outpouring of money — the closing of all offices of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and a halt to all activities in Jordan and in Cairo."

He assailed a West Bank policy initiated while Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was prime minister earlier this year. Under that policy, Israel allowed an Arab Bank to open for the first time since 1967.

As defence minister in 1982, Sharon led an invasion of Lebanon with the aim of driving Palestinian commandos from rocket-firing range of northern Israel.

He urged the nine-party government to enact what he called a multi-year "anti-terrorist plan." Under a power-sharing plan last October, then-Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, then Prime Minister, swapped jobs with Peres, the Labour Party leader.

Some 900,000 Arabs live in the West Bank occupied by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Peres said he was optimistic about Middle East peace prospects after the recent visit to the region of U.S. envoy Richard Murphy, the State Department's Middle East expert.

At a banquet for visiting deputy Italian Prime Minister Amadeo Foliani, the Israeli leader said Mr. Murphy "was much encouraged to discover that the Jordanians, Egyptians as well as ourselves are seriously interested in renewing the momentum for peace."

Israeli Druze demonstrate against demolition of homes

HAIFA (AP) — Hundreds of Druze held a demonstration which turned violent Monday, protesting government plans to demolish illegal housing.

Several youths among the 500 Druze demonstrators broke a glass window and pushed open the doors of the Interior Ministry's office in this Mediterranean port city before being calmed by their

elders.

The protesters also attacked a photographer, cutting his lip and breaking his glasses.

Interior Ministry spokesman Yitzhak Agassiz said in a telephone interview there were more than 2,000 illegal structures in Israel's northern Galilee area, almost all of them built by Arabs and Druze.

Iraq reports fresh air raids

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Saddam Hussein, who visited his troops at the war front.

President Hussein's visit was seen as a sign of how serious the Iraqis took the Iranian thrust across the Shatt Al Arab waterway, which they said was aimed at capturing the port city of Basra.

Iranian reports claimed elite Iraqi units have been shifted to the southern front, among them elements of President's Hussein's Presidential Guard and the elite Qasr Commando Brigade.

Tehran's state radio said Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Revolutionary Guards Corps asked citizens including students to register at mosques, offices and factories for service at the war fronts. It said 200,000 conscripts had been raised for the new Mohammad Corps.

Western military analysts said the Iranian breakthrough, which involved more than 100,000 Iranian troops by Iraqi count, was the most serious since Iran seized part of the Fao peninsula in February 1986. They said it could set the stage for a full-scale attack on Basra.

The Al Thawra newspaper in Baghdad warned in an editorial that the "rulers of Iran should know that entire Iranian cities would be wiped out had they continue to bombard Iraqis."

Equally harsh threats were contained in an Iraqi News Agency commentary saying the Shatt Al Arab would be a "river of no return" for any Iranian caught on Iraq's side of the border.

These included one major operation Sunday night that Iraq claimed was led by Iraqi President

Israelis reportedly training contras

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli instructors are training Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries in Honduras, an Israeli newspaper reported Monday.

In a report from Washington, the daily Haaretz quoted American sources as saying the Israeli instructors were paid directly by the Honduran government and were not official representatives of the Israeli army.

A defence ministry official here, speaking on condition of anonymity, called the report "baseless."

Haaretz wrote that the military instructors were training Honduran soldiers in Tegucigalpa, the capital, and in Palma Rola. The contras were being trained at U.S. army bases in the same cities, the report said.

The unidentified U.S. sources said the United States may have agreed to the recent sale of 12 Israeli-built Kfir jets to Honduras as a "token of gratitude for cooperation in extending aid to the contras."

The United States must approve such sales because the planes include U.S. components.

Haaretz quoted unidentified military sources as saying payment for the Israeli instructors may come from the Honduran government or from "American sources or intelligence groups."

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israel would have to wait patiently until its name was cleared of any wrongdoing in the Iran arms affair.

"We must deal with these matters patiently," said Peres in remarks aired Monday on Israel Radio. "When the whole picture emerges, I'm convinced the basic picture (of Israel's role) won't change," he said.

Peres, who was prime minister at the time the arms sales began in August 1985, reiterated his position that Israel only responded to a U.S. request for help in establishing ties with Iran.

He was reacting to a White House-issued document claiming Israel initiated the arms deal. The memorandum was viewed by

some officials here as attempts by White House aides to blame Israel for embroiling President Ronald Reagan in the most severe crisis of his presidency.

"I wouldn't jump to any conclusions," Peres said referring to the memorandum prepared by former National Security Adviser John Poindexter for Mr. Reagan and dated Jan. 17, 1986. "The document deals with January (1986), when in fact the affair began a long time before that," Peres did not elaborate.

According to Yaakov Nimrodi, an Israeli arms merchant involved in the affair, the first arms consignment to Iran was sent in August 1985.

The charges leveled in the Poindexter document and in several U.S. news reports over the past few days have revived debate in Israel over the Iranian arms affair.

Respected Haaretz columnist Zeev Schiff urged Israeli leaders to speak out clearly on the affair in the light of Adm. Poindexter's memo.

Saudis said to have given \$31m to contras

WASHINGTON (AP) — The NBC Television Network reported Sunday that the U.S. government got Saudi Arabia to send \$31 million in aid to Nicaragua's contra rebels during a ban on U.S. assistance.

The U.S. television network quoted a Senate Intelligence Committee report on the Iran-contras affair and an unidentified source.

NBC said the National Security Council decided in a meeting last May to have President Ronald Reagan ask someone — the name was blacked out in the copy of the report obtained by NBC — to contribute humanitarian aid to the Nicaraguan contra rebels.

The network said that two months later, former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane told Secretary of State George Shultz that someone — the name again was blacked out — had contributed \$31 million to the contras political group, the United Nicaraguan Opposition.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS: ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)
06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:00 Athens (RJ)
09:20 Cairo (RJ)
09:25 Jeddah (RJ)
10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:45 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
17:25 New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:40 Athens (RJ)
17:50 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
18:45 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:45 Istanbul (RJ)
18:05 Rome (RJ) (add.)
19:40 Tripoli (RJ)
19:45 Rome (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)
11:25 Moscow, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
12:30 Athens (RJ)
13:45 Kuwait (RJ)
15:10 Riyadh (KU)
15:55 Rome, Damascus (AZ)
20:40 Zurich, Lamezia (SR)
21:40 Frankfurt (LF)
22:30 Baghdad (IA)

DEPARTURES: ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)
06:45 Agaba (RJ)
10:45 Rome (RJ)
11:40 Tripoli (RJ)
11:45 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:50 Athens (RJ)
11:45 Belgrade, London (RJ)
12:40 Geneva, London (RJ)
12:45 Istanbul, Rome (RJ) (add.)
20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:15 Damascus (RJ)
21:20 Kuwait (RJ)
22:40 Bangkok (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)
06:30 Beirut (ME)

MAINTENANCE TRAFFIC
Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:
— Golden Amman
— Kenosha Trader
Amin Kavar and Sons Company, with its new offices in Shamsiyya, at your service, tel. 60570315.

WEATHER
Bullseye supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Fair weather is expected in Amman, with intermittent clouds and a southeasterly moderate wind. In Aqaba, fair weather is also expected, with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.

Min./max temp.
Amman 1/13
Aqaba 8/20
Deserts 0/15
Jordan Valley 9/21

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 14, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 46 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE
Monday rates
Local sell/buy rates in Jds
Belgian franc 85/5 86.8
Dutch guilder 156.3/ 159.6
French franc 53.4/ 54.3
Italian lira 25.1/ 25.5
Japanese yen (for 100) 224.5/ 218
Swedish crown 50.2/ 51
Swiss franc 210.5/ 216.3
U.K. sterling pound 301/ 304.9
U.S. dollar 339.3/ 342.9
W. German mark 176.4/ 180.3

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19
PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:50 Programme review
16:25 Soccer match (Italy vs. Uruguay)
18:00 Religious programme (Fawa)
18:25 Arabic series
19:15 Programme on education
19:20 Programme review
20:40 Arabic series
20:55 Arabic series
21:30 Tomorrow's programme
21:50 Law and the Society
22:15 Songs from the movies
23:30 News summary in Arabic
23:40 Arabic play

PROGRAMME TWO
18:30 Le Petit Docteur
18:30 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Economic made Easy
20:10 News in Arabic
20:30 Ever Decreasing Circles
21:00 Varieties
22:00 News in English
22:30 The Fourth Arm

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& partly on 9500 KHz, SW
774111-19
07:00 Light Music
07:30 News Desk
08:00 Morning Show
09:00 News Summary
10:00 Morning Show Contd.
11:00 Oriental Foods
11:15 Your Health
11:30 Morning Show
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Readings
12:30 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:45 Pop Session Contd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 New Music
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instruments, Old Favorites
17:00 Science Report
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
19:00 Newsweek
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Contd.

BBC WORLD SERVICE
634, 720, 1322 KHz
06:00 News 06:30 Pierre Fournier
06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial News
07:00 World News 07:00 24 Hours
07:10 News Summary 07:20 News 07:40
Book Choice 07:45 The World Today
08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Rock Salad 09:00
World News 09:00 24 Hours: News
Summary 09:30 Computer World 09:45
News 10:00 World News 10:00
Reflections 10:15 Hard Knocks 10:30
After Beirut 10:40 World News 10:50
British Press Review 11:15 The World
Today 11:30 Financial News: Look
Ahead 11:45 Sounds of the Sixties 12:00
News Summary: Discovery 12:30 Play:
Runyon's Gays and Dolls 12:40 World
News 12:50 News about Britain 12:15
Waveguide 12:25 A Letter from
Scotland 12:30 Sports International
14:00 Radio Newsworld 14:15 Multitrack
1 14:45 Sports Roundup 15:00 World
News 15:00 24 Hours: News Summary
15:30 Newsweek 15:45 Omnibus
16:00 The World Today 16:00 World
News 16:00 24 Hours: News Summary
16:45 Commentary 18:15 Omnibus
18:45 The World Today 19:00 World
News 19:00 A Letter from Scotland
19:15 Multitrack 19:45 Sports Roundup
20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Development 21
21:00 News Summary: Outlook 21:30
Stock Market Report

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9505, 11740,
11925 and 15210 KHz
05:00 News 05:10 Newsline 05:30 VOA
Morning 06:00 News 06:10 Newsline
06:20 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10
Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00
News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA
Morning 09:00 News 09:10 Newsline
09:30 VOA Morning 09:57 News
Summary 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline
10:30 News 10:40 Newsline 10:50
Focus 10:50 Special English News &
Features 11:00 News 11:10 Newsline
11:30 News 11:40 Newsline 11:50
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Features 36:00 News 36:10 Newsline
36:30 News 36:40 Newsline 36:50
Focus 36:50 Special English News &
Features 37:00 News 37:1

Jordanian cement hits Egyptian market

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first shipment of Jordanian cement has arrived in Egypt via the Red Sea port of Suez and marketing of the product is now underway.

According to Mr. Kamal Wajih, who is directing the transportation of Jordanian cement to Egypt, a freighter carrying 25,000 tonnes of Jordanian bulk cement docked in Suez last December and the marketing process in Egypt commenced on Sunday.

Mr. Wajih, whose company won a tender for trucking and shipping one million tonnes of bulk cement from the former South Cement Company (SCC) under a cost and freight agreement, said that the terms of the tender provided for freight of 1,700 tonnes of bulk cement per day or 60,000 tonnes per month.

On the terms and means of transport between pick up at the cement factory and delivery to Aqaba port, Mr. Wajih said his company has chartered a Yugoslav fleet of trucks which are specially constructed to carry bulk cement.

The lorries unload their shipments of bulk cement on a floating silo at Aqaba and from there cargo vessels carry set consignments to a packing factory in Suez where bulk cement is filled into sacks for the Egyptian markets. Mr. Wajih told the Jordan Times on Monday.

Egyptian trucks take over the task in Suez and transport the sacked Jordanian cement to the distribution terminals inside Egypt, Mr. Wajih added.

When signing the package deal in May of last year, Egypt and Jordan deemed it more feasible that bulk cement be sacked and prepared in Suez where both countries installed special sacking facilities at port silos.



AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS: Pakistan's ambassador designate to Jordan Jaafar Hassan Sayeed (left) on Monday presents Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri (right) with a copy of his credentials. Mr. Sayeed succeeds



Mr. Hassan Rashid who served in the post since 1982. Mr. Masri also received Mr. Ibrahim Ali Ibrahim (right) who lauded him a copy of his credentials as ambassador of Bahrain to Jordan (Petra photo)

Ministry, RSS to cooperate in energy conservation designs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Monday signed a contract on bilateral cooperation in energy conservation measures. Under the agreement, both sides will carry out a project with technical help from the Italian government and a specialised Italian firm to produce building designs suitable for Jordan's climate. The project also involves finding ways to save energy that is being used in heating and air conditioning and means of benefiting from solar power and renewable forms of energy.

The project entails the development of a laboratory which will test and handle

Arbor Day celebration to beautify area near airport

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture has made preparations to hold an Arbor Day celebration at the Queen Alia International Airport and there has been no change in this programme, a ministry spokesman announced Monday. He said that during the celebration, which will be held under royal patronage, 4,000 olive trees, 2,000 pine and fruit trees and 2,000 forest saplings will be planted. A total of 25,000 dunums of land around the airport, area will be planted with trees, according to ministry plans and the Arbor Day saplings will constitute the first batch of the project, the spokesman pointed out.

According to Mr. Ghaleb Abu Arrabi, director of the Range and Afforestation Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, most trees to be planted this year will be fruit trees, but certain areas will be planted with forest trees during the current session.

He said that the ministry's various nurseries this year produced nine million saplings, half of which will be planted during the Jan. 15 Arbor Day celebrations to be held in different governorates of the Kingdom.

Delegation to review tourism marketing strategy with Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — A tourist delegation, led by Mr. Nasri Attallah, the director general of the Tourism Authority, left for Cairo on Monday for a five-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, Mr. Attallah will hold talks with officials from the Ministry of Tourism on the joint marketing of Jordanian and Egyptian tourist attractions and organising tourist exhibition in world capitals to attract tourists. Also to be discussed by the two sides is the

question of organising visits to Egypt and Jordan by tourist groups from different countries, and bilateral exchanges of expertise and information about tourism, in implementation of an agreement signed by the two countries in Amman last November.

The two sides will also discuss the setting up of joint wings and exhibitions to highlight touristic and archaeological sites in Egypt and Jordan.

Joint archaeology team to start new dig at Tal Deir Alla

AMMAN (Petra) — A joint archaeological team from the University of Leiden in Holland and the Department of Antiquities in Jordan will shortly embark on an excavation season at Tal Deir Alla, in the Jordan Valley region, to complete the unearthing of an Ammonite city dating back to 1200 B.C., according to an announcement issued by the Department of Antiquities.

The announcement said that the dig, which will continue until the end of March, will centre on the ninth zone of the ancient city which was believed to have been destroyed in an earthquake. Artifacts so far uncovered at the site have revealed numerous "Ammonite" writings which indicate that the area was later inhabited by settlers around 800 B.C. The announcement said that the writings deal with the social and economic life of the region in that era.

The Department of Antiquities is involving Yarmouk University students in the coming excavations and the students will also join other digs being carried out in various regions of the Kingdom.

Goethe Institute library reopens

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The library at the Goethe Institute was reopened by West German Ambassador in Jordan Herwig Bartels on Monday after being closed for two years.

The library contains 3,000 books, most of which are in German and the remainder in English. Literature, history, geography, sociology, natural sciences, and art books can all be found there. There is also a set of encyclopaedias, and a large number of children's books. Visitors to the library can also find publications on the history, geography, and religion of the Arab World in English.

According to the director of the Goethe Institute, Mr. Adolf Pernert, the library was reopened to serve the German-speaking community in the country, whether they are Germans, Austrians, Swiss, or Jordanians who have lived in these countries and want to renew their contact with the European country.

"There has to be a German library here if we are to enrich our cultural relations with Jordan," Mr. Pernert told the Jordan Times.

Report updates Israeli land confiscations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Israeli occupation authorities confiscated a total of 47,197 dunums of land owned by Arab citizens in the Jerusalem, Nablus and Hebron areas of the occupied Arab territories during the last three months of 1986, according to a Ministry of Labour report published in the local daily newspaper Al-Dustour. This brings to 2,665,114 dunums the total area of Arab lands confiscated by Israel since June 1967 until the end of 1986, the report said.

The Israeli authorities also built two new settlements during the last quarter of 1986.

ATF symposium on debt concludes

Delegates urge Arab countries to coordinate financial policies to offset deficits and exert pressure on major lenders

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A specialised symposium ended its deliberations here on Monday urging all Arab countries to exert their leverage on the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in order to obtain better terms for Arab borrowers and debtor states.

The staunch call for better conditions on loans secured by Arab states from these two Washington-based lending giants was one of many recommendations issued at the end of a two-day seminar on alternative policies for dealing with the Arab countries' foreign debts. According to official figures, the total amount of Arab indebtedness is estimated at \$154.5 billion, a sum which forms 15 per cent of the overall foreign debts of developing countries.

The event, which opened here with a keynote speech by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, discussed issues related to the flight of Arab capital, protecting Arab investments, and devising tools and mechanism to reduce the foreign liabilities which have reached an embarrassing stage in some of the regions' countries.

Official figures put Egypt on top of debtor Arab countries with current debts of \$42.5 billion, followed by Algeria with \$16.3 billion and Morocco with \$16.980 billion.

Participants in the seminar, which was organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), suggested the establishment of an Arab fund for confronting foreign debts and said that such a body should be ready to support any Arab state whose foreign payments were causing a financial crisis.

The fund's basic role, they said, should be to offer immediate help in the form of "emergency loans" to any country which is in the process of rescheduling its foreign debts.

Finances for the fund, they suggested, should be gathered by allocating part of Arab financial reserves from states with surplus in revenues as well as the participation of Arab socio-economic and development funds.

Furthermore, they called for issuing special laws to control foreign borrowing made on behalf of Arab public institutions.

These laws, they said, should outline the rules and terms and ceilings for foreign borrowings. They stressed that such laws should stipulate that public borrowings cannot be made unless the Arab states' respective parliaments and legislative bodies issue special laws legalising the process.

They further suggested that foreign borrowing should not be on commercial bases, and added that encouragement should be made to allow for Arab-Arab borrowing.

A call for returning Egypt to the Arab fold and to all joint Arab organisations was another recommendation made by the conferees who cited Cairo's role as "major" in helping the Arab states face their problems.

In his opening speech on Sunday, Crown Prince Hassan warned the region against what he termed as a "potential global trade war," and said that means of finding solutions to help the Arab countries sidestep the "shadow of Arab indebtedness" have to be created through an "Arab-Arab formula."

The final recommendations of the meeting were based on the deliberations which followed four working papers presented to the seminar on "means of protecting Arab investments," the "flight of Arab capital," "ways to overcome the indebtedness crisis" and the international attitude vis-a-vis the issue.

Discussing the threats on Arab capital invested in foreign countries, which the participants were unable to evaluate, the participants called for directing the surplus in Arab budgets and revenues towards procurement in Arab nations, provided suitable investment opportunities are created.

Arab financial market

They also called for setting up a regular Arab financial market in a country of a moderate geographic

location, such as Jordan, to assist in creating a secondary market for Arab finances.

Probing the issue of the flight of Arab capital, attributed largely to economic, psychological and political reasons as well as institutionalised corruption in the majority of the region's organisations, the conferees suggested tightening the gap in Arab budget deficits, controlling inflation, adopting reasonable prices for exchange rates, issuing positive investment rates, and increasing the national consolidation in the countries' currency.

They also called for special orders to punish corruption and to devise new auditing measures as well as to allow for popular participation in public life as means of reducing Arab capital flight.

The conferees, the majority of whom were former Arab officials or economists, intellectuals and bankers, also called for implementing a special strategy that depends on national and local powers in confronting indebtedness issues.

They said that such a working plan could increase the Arab World's means of repaying their debts, and will lessen the region's needs for further borrowing.

Conflicting opinions emerged on whether or not Arab countries should halt their borrowings either to settle the deficits in their balances of payments or to finance development projects. However, the majority of participants agreed that borrowings should be kept "within reasonable limits" and only for financing revenue generating projects that are capable of servicing their foreign debts.

Complementary measures to be taken in connection with lessening the rates of foreign borrowings on behalf of some Arab states were also recommended, including the rationalisation and expenditures and imports, increasing exports in general and in areas of energy and labour in particular.

Participants also called for setting up central organisations in each of the Arab countries to manage foreign debts and to float interest rates on banking facilities in a manner to suit the capital and the demand and supply on investments and savings.

Private sector borrowing

Although strict ceilings for Arab foreign borrowing were called for by the seminar, the gathering said that the private sector should not be affected by such projected ceilings since the sector was "more stable and better off" in terms of servicing loans.

They also urged lowering government subsidies on consumption commodities in general and on products that are locally manufactured or produced.

Lowering the priorities for investments which depend on large capital and on the imports of foreign machinery where foreign currency has to be used, was another recommendation issued by the gathering.

To complement the policies of increasing imports, they suggested that an increase on import fees be implemented and that all customs on local-made exports should be removed. The seminar also called for more coordination among parties responsible for developmental planning, the balance of payments, the budget bureaus and the central banks.

They also called for an increase in the participation of Arab governments and funds in huge joint industrial projects or in regional schemes.

Lifting all restrictions on the flow on Arab capital to Arab states was also called for by the participants.

At the outset of Monday's first working session, a number of themes were debated by the participants regarding the necessity of a pan-Arab movement to define the volume of



Participants discuss the problem of Arab debt in a symposium on Monday sponsored by the Arab Thought Forum (Petra photo)

the total Arab indebtedness and on the facets of Arab borrowing from regional and international viewpoints.

The majority of participants also seemed to agree that in the absence of a united Arab socio-economic and political stand, any attempts to arrive at solutions to the region's numerous problems will remain impossible.

'Political considerations'

Some of the conferees noted that numerous earlier resolutions which were taken by various Arab economic summits and conferences failed to be implemented not because of their "soundness," but due to "political considerations."

When there is a united pan-Arab stand, there will be many possibilities to secure loans to fund a number of economic projects, said another participant.

Winding up the conference's deliberations was ATF Secretary General Sa'adudine Ibrahim, who promised the conferees that his organisation would prepare a summary of the two-day discussions and suggestions to be sent to each of the Arab heads of state in order to generate more suggestions which would eventually crystallise these recommendations.

The conference's second session on Sunday evening also witnessed lively discussions and the majority of points raised during that meeting centred on the effects of the Arab World's oil boom on increasing the region's volume of indebtedness. The majority of speakers in this discussion seemed to agree with the idea put forward by Dr. Abdullah Al-Hamad, chairman of the Arab Fund for Socio-Economic Development, that Arab indebtedness resulted from the rapid developments and "unsuccessful" policies.

Attempting to probe the reasons for maintaining such a limited Arab investment in the region, Dr. Al-Hamad conceded that the problem lies in "creating mechanisms which help investments."

He referred to the Arab investment of \$10 billion in Sudan during previous years and said that the return on the investments was a "round zero."

At this point, Dr. Mohammad Omar Al-Bashir, a Sudanese researcher, said that Sudan lost the investment returns on the \$10 billion because of the "corrupt political system prevailing at that time."

Another theme emerged during the discussions and it showed the importance of creative thinking as a basic driving force behind

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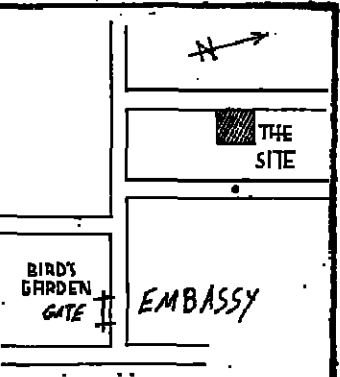
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One-time exception?

IS the U.S. arms sale to Iran truly a "one-time exception" as U.S. envoy to the Middle East Richard Murphy asserted on his visit to Egypt over the weekend, or rather a reflection of a well studied and calculated policy towards Iran and our region in general? With the continuing disclosures that President Ronald Reagan had authorised the sale of arms to Iran and that Israel had played a pivotal role in the whole affair, one should look beyond the declared explanations of the Washington-Tel Aviv-Tehran deal.

The starting point for any insightful analysis of the Iranagate scandal should be an examination of how Washington sees our region as a whole. Washington certainly sees Iran as a de facto ally vis-a-vis the situation in Afghanistan, where Soviet troops are battling with the indigenous resistance supported equally by Washington and Tehran. The strategic value of Afghanistan for both Washington and Moscow is too clear to require any amplification. If Afghanistan is of strategic importance to both superpowers, it follows that Iran is even a bigger prize for Washington. With Afghanistan firmly under the control of the Soviet Union, however, it stands to reason that Washington calculates that Iran should be under the control of the U.S., either directly or by proxy, in order to neutralise the Soviet presence and assure its containment in Afghanistan. Iran has amply demonstrated the direction of its political ideology by suppressing all leftist forces in the country and executing the Communists. All in all, then, the credentials of Iran in the context of the ideological struggle between the two giants has been sealed in favour of Washington.

With this in mind, one wonders about the position of Iraq and the Arab World in the grand strategy that Washington has mapped out for the Middle East. One can deduce from this that, for the West, the Arab World can be taken for granted, just like it has been in the past. Even when Western support was allowed to filter for Iraq, the intent behind it seems to have been to force Iran further and closer to the side of the West. And, if this is true, then Mr. Murphy cannot be right when he said that the arms sale to Iran was a one-time exception. Besides, if most of the upper echelons in the U.S. government, including the whole legislative branch of government did not know about the arms deal to Iran, maybe Mr. Murphy also is not privy to the thoughts of the inner circle in the U.S. government.

With the gap that exists today between the White House and the State Department, it is difficult to know just exactly what foreign policy — if any — the U.S. might have at the present. And until the picture becomes clearer, Mr. Murphy's words can only be taken to represent more his own and Secretary Shultz's thinking than the whole administration's.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King pursues peace

KING Hussein and Queen Noor Monday start an official visit to France to be followed by another one to Italy. Both visits come at a time when efforts are intensifying for solving the Middle East question and restoring the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. The visits to France and Italy, both prominent members of the European Community, come in the wake of a fresh tour by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy to the region and Moscow's new declaration on the Middle East situation and the Belgian foreign minister's announcement that the question will be on the European Community's agenda. Though Europe has not yet revealed any plans for reviving efforts to resolve the problem, its leaders have lately been expressing concern over the situation in the region which has been aggravated in view of Israel's continued acts of aggression, and its refusal of all peace bids. In the light of this situation, we can say that the King's visits are of tremendous significance specially as Jordan has never given up the hope about Europe's role in the peace-making process. Jordan believes that without the European Community and the Soviet Union there can be no real solution based on justice. Jordan also believes that the United States should not be allowed to handle the Middle East issue single handed or impose any terms for a solution which favour Israel solely and ignore the rights of the Palestinian people. The King is in Europe again affirming Arab rights and calling for a just peace.

Al Dustour: Israeli-U.S. collusion

AS the Iranians escalate their aggression on Iraq, we hear reports about fresh documents that reveal Washington's detailed role in collusion with Israel for supplying Tehran with weapons to launch aggression. Needless to say that the conflict in the Gulf serves Israel's purpose and offers Tel Aviv a golden opportunity for consolidating its hold on occupied Arab territory. Israel serves as an agent for the United States in selling arms to Iran, but it stands as the prime beneficiary of the current war. However, the Tehran rulers have been trying to ignore this fact and even deny any deals with the Israelis or the Americans, as they claim their total hostility to both Israel and the United States. But the fresh documents reveal clearly the collusion of Israel and the United States with the Tehran regime at a time when Iran is launching a fresh offensive against Iraq employing American made weapons delivered to Tehran by the Israelis. Both the United States and Israel want this war to continue and to intensify because it is bound to maintain the bleeding of the Arab and Islamic nations and the draining of their resources. For this reason, we can say that the developments in the Gulf war are closely connected with the continuous stream of American weapons to Iran and the desire for prolonging the conflagration as long as possible. We strongly condemn Iran's new aggression on Iraq and we are quite confident that the Iraqi armed forces will inflict another defeat on the invading forces regardless of the American-made weapons at their disposal.

Sawt Al Shaab: Another bloody offensive

DESPITE the huge forces Iran has massed for the current battle in the southern front, and regardless of the advanced weapons they brought to the battlefield, the Tehran regime cannot and will not achieve any success in its bid to occupy Arab land. The Tehran rulers who are obsessed with the lust of power and domination of Arab territory have planned to achieve successes in the war to make up for the series of defeats they suffered at the hands of the Iraqi armed forces so far. But, in so doing these rulers are sacrificing tens of thousands of innocent people, and inflicting so much damage and material loss on the Iranian people themselves. The new battle is being waged by Iran not only to make up for their humiliating defeat two weeks ago, but in order to create an impression with the coming Islamic summit in Kuwait. The Iranians hope that with their aggression they would obstruct the coming meeting and prevent Islamic leaders from finding a proper measure to end the bloody conflict. The Tehran regime has opted for aggression after finding itself totally isolated from the rest of the Islamic world and is now trying to commit suicide through new adventures across the border and into Iraq.

Britons see prospect of first coalition since World War II

By Colin McIntyre

Reuter
LONDON — Despite opposition from Britain's two major political parties, prospects are growing that this country may soon have its first coalition government since World War II.

In the mind of the average Briton coalitions are essentially foreign, the result of too many political parties leading inevitably to short-lived and chaotic governments. The experience of Italy usually comes to mind.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher echoed a widely-held view when she commented on a recent radio phone-in programme: "Coalitions break up pretty quickly, because they frequently tend to duck the difficult questions."

The two-party system that has dominated British politics for most of this century, with Conservatives and Labour alternating between government and opposition, guarantees solid

majorities and decisive and orderly rule, traditionalists argue. However, a growing body of opinion believes the system is breaking down in a changing Britain, and sees the likelihood of coalition government growing. Far from shrinking at the prospect, they welcome it.

Supporters of coalition point out that an example for Britain should be West Germany, rather than Italy. The Germans have run themselves by coalitions since the Federal Republic came into being in 1949, with impressive results.

Latest opinion polls here have the two major parties almost neck-and-neck with little prospect of gaining an overall majority in elections, which must be held by 1988 but are widely expected to come this year.

A Mori poll this month gave the ruling Conservatives 39 per cent, with Labour 38 per cent, and the centrist alliance, which groups the Liberals and Social Democrats (SDP), on 21 per cent.

Translated into votes in a general election, the figures would produce a hung parliament, with the Conservatives taking 309 seats, 17 short of an overall majority, and Labour getting 301.

While both parties have already ruled out any coalition with the alliance, which has pledged to break the traditional two-party mould of British politics, SDP leader David Owen has predicted they will be forced to eat their words.

"The electorate in their wisdom will, I predict, not give outright victory to any of us," he said in a new year message. "We will be forced to negotiate together. We will see once again coalition government in this country."

While many commentators welcome the prospect of a coalition involving the alliance, with its middle-of-the-road pragmatism, they shudder at the possibility of another scenario in which the balance of power could be held by the Northern Ireland

Unionists, who currently hold 15 seats.

Few politicians would relish the thought of Ireland's turbulent politics, dominated by the age-old battle between Protestants and Catholics, once again casting their shadow over parliament as they did at the turn of the century.

The minimum price for Unionist support would inevitably be the scrapping of the controversial Anglo-Irish agreement giving Dublin a say in running the province, aimed at ending the 18-year sectarian and political strife that has racked the north. What else the Unionists might demand is unclear.

The Unionists, who represent the Protestant majority in the province loyal to Britain, fear the agreement will lead eventually to a united Ireland ruled by the predominantly Catholic south.

The agreement, passed by the largest majority in parliament's history in 1985, is supported by all the main parties.

The last coalition in Britain was a wartime government of national unity formed by Prime Minister Winston Churchill in 1940, which survived without any major challenge for five years. The only genuine coalition this century, in which parties were forced to cooperate by domestic rather than external factors, was in 1931.

From 1950 to 1970 the country settled into a firm two-party pattern. In elections during this period an average 98 per cent of members of parliament came from the big two parties.

Things began to change in the 1970s, when this proportion dropped to 94 per cent with the growth in the Liberal vote, the upsurge of nationalist parties in Scotland and Wales, and the move of Northern Ireland's politics outside the mainland system.

There was nearly a coalition in 1977. Labour leader James Callaghan, faced with a vote of censure on his economic policies,

forged a pact under which the Liberals agreed to support him on key issues in return for consultation on major decisions.

Advocates of coalition argue that the so-called "Lib-Lab pact" worked quite well during its 18-month existence. Some Labour back-benchers complained that the Liberals were more involved in government than they were.

Another development has been the increasing polarisation of Britain into the relatively impoverished north, now overwhelmingly Labour, and the affluent south, solidly Tory. This has led to an increase in "safe" seats and a decline in "marginals" which in the past tended to change hands when there was only a small swing in support from one party to the other in elections.

The net result of all these developments is that the two main parties now need a lead of at least five per cent over the other to gain a majority.

NATO takes rocky road to joint arms production

By Robert J. Wiersma

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — NATO is struggling once again to eliminate a perpetual military problem: Duplication and incompatibility of weapons among its member armies.

Next month, the alliance will launch joint, multinational projects on seven major arms systems.

But squabbles over national sovereignty and protectionism continue to blunt the allies' zeal for more such projects.

David Abshire, a former U.S. envoy to NATO, says 11 firms in seven NATO nations make anti-tank weapons; 18 firms in seven countries make ground-to-air weapons; and 16 firms in seven nations make air-to-ground arms. There also are seven nations making six tactical communications systems that are unable to "speak" with each other. And none is compatible with NATO's integrated communications system.

The duplication is seen as weakening the alliance because the Soviets have a numerical superiority in conventional weapons and have narrowed or wiped out NATO's lead in nuclear arms.

If East-West war breaks out tomorrow, General Bernard W. Rogers, NATO's top European commander, has said he will have to use nuclear arms in a matter of "days, rather than weeks."

However, NATO officials say a major step to help remedy the situation is near. In February, 13 NATO allies expect to sign an accord to share in the research and development of seven major systems for their armed forces.

These include airborne radar, a common 155mm, heat-seeking battlefield shell, a NATO-wide "friend-or-foe" identification system for aircraft, and "smart" bombs and missiles that home in on targets.

"The main difficulty ... continues to be, the general reluctance of nations to relinquish a small amount of national sovereignty," Spain's deputy defence minister Eduardo Serra Rexach wrote in a recent NATO Review, an alliance periodical.

The alliance, for example, has four main battle tanks that use different ammunition — the Leopard from West Germany, the M-1 Abrams from the United States, the Challenger from Britain and the AMX-40 from France.

"We cannot afford ... a system which has resulted in four main battle tanks being lined up to fight the same battle in the same place on the same day and not even being able to use the same ammunition," NATO Secretary-General Lord Carrington said last October.

In some areas standardisation has prevailed. An example came in mid-December when Britain decided to buy U.S. AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) planes, thus remaining in step with NATO, which has 18 of the U.S.-made airborne radar

stations. But the British decision came only after a wrenching debate over the merits of the home-developed Nimrod system, whose backers complained bitterly that by buying AWACS the British government had harmed domestic industry and technological growth.

Politics has also stood in the way. From 1973 through 1982, the decision to deploy nuclear cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Western Europe, and the severe political fallout it yielded, dominated allied consultations.

U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn renewed interest in recent years for allied arms cooperation.

In a 1985 amendment he sponsored, the United States put up \$345 million through 1987 for the U.S. share of collaborative arms deals. It also earmarked \$90 million for side-by-side testing of existing U.S. and European weapons.

The United States, Britain and France will join in all seven high-priority projects expected to be announced in February.

Canada and Italy will share in six. Spain, Holland and West Germany in five, Belgium in four, Norway in three, Denmark and Turkey in two, and Greece in one, officials said.

But arms cooperation, both among the Europeans and with the Americans and Canadians, has long been cause for acrimony.

One European project — to start building 1,000 supersonic tactical jet fighters in the mid-1990s at a cost of \$30 billion — has bogged down in squabbling over the plane's size and weight since talks began in 1980 between Britain, West Germany, Italy and Spain.

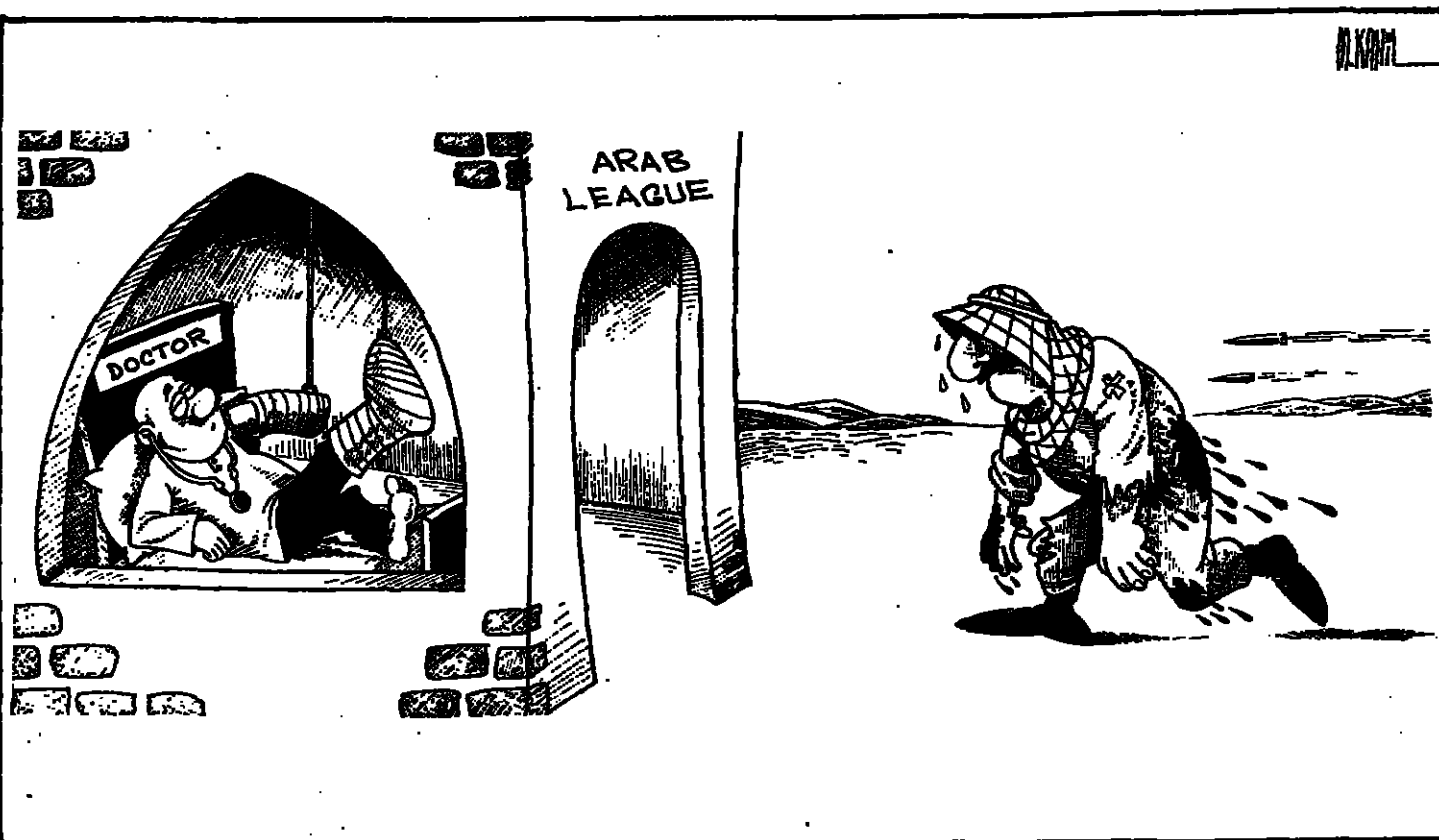
The Europeans tend to accuse Washington of favouring joint arms projects only if U.S. industry can share in them.

In 1985, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger sought a U.S. share in "developing our respective fighter aircraft programmes." The comment was seen in Europe as an attempt to force Europe into the U.S. version of a tactical fighter.

In 1986, Michael Heseltine resigned as British defence secretary over an arms issue. He sought a European rescue for Westland PLC, an ailing British helicopter maker. He feared an American rescue through United Technologies' Sikorsky aircraft division meant the company would lose out in European helicopter deals.

European efforts in such projects have so far suffered major setbacks. Since 1967, Westland and France's Aerospatiale S.A. have made 2,582 Gazelle, Puma and Lynx helicopters. But Westland's Lynx is not as common in the French forces as France's Gazelles and Pumas are in the British.

"An important complication in arms cooperation," a senior U.S. official at NATO said recently, "is that France has its own defence policy which is not always the same as NATO's. Its needs are different, making it more difficult for other NATO members to work with the French on joint projects."



S. Yemen appears to have weathered year of uncertainty

By Dina Matar

Reuter

BAHRAIN — A year after factional fighting split South Yemen, the new Marxist leadership appears to be consolidating power despite the presence of ousted President Ali Nasser Mohammed on the border, diplomats in the region say.

They say the deposed leader's year-long campaign to regain control of the impoverished former British colony seemed to have lost momentum, largely because of lack of support from neighbouring Yemen.

The exiled Nasser Mohammed has been ensconced for months on the North Yemen side of the border and says he has been joined by 30,000 supporters.

He has repeatedly demanded peace talks while also threatening armed intervention to oust the new Yemeni leadership headed by President Haider Abubaker Al Attas.

On Jan. 11 he issued a statement from the North Yemen capital renewing overtures: "We will

continue to work for political dialogue. But we have other options," he said.

However Aden has consistently refused talks with Nasser Mohammed and last month put him and key supporters on trial in absentia on treason charges.

Nasser Mohammed, who ruled for nearly six years, was toppled in two weeks of savage fighting which erupted on January 13 last year over ideological disputes within the ruling Marxist Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP).

Up to 10,000 people were reported killed and damage ran to more than \$200 million, crippling the economy.

Diplomatic sources say political uncertainty has now diminished as Aden's new rulers, adopting a more rigid Marxist line, seem to have succeeded in drawing together the YSP.

The situation in South Yemen has stabilised and differences within the party appear healed," one source said.

The new leadership has sufficiently confident to hold

parliamentary elections last October for the first time since independence in 1967.

Diplomats said North Yemen — which has dabbled in merger talks with South Yemen since 1982 — had shown little enthusiasm for helping Nasser Mohammed regain power. They said the Sanaa government was preoccupied with an economic crisis caused by an acute shortage of foreign currency.

Nasser Mohammed was reported to have stationed several thousand armed supporters in camps along the border last year. But diplomats said there has been only minor skirmishes.

In December, Aden said it had uncovered a sabotage network in the northern province of Shabwah, about 500 kilometres north of Aden, which it said was linked to Nasser Mohammed.

In a bid to bring domestic harmony, Attas declared an amnesty last March inviting the exiles to return home.

The authorities say they have freed some 4,000 detainees held

since January for their role in the fighting. They say they have no more in prison except for 94 on trial in Aden.

The power struggle has not greatly affected South Yemen's foreign policy, which Attas pledged not to change.

Ties with Moscow, Aden's main ally, have strengthened after an initial period of coolness and relations with Arab neighbours — Saudi Arabia, North Yemen and Oman — are improving.

The Soviet Union promised more aid to South Yemen and has begun oil exploration work in Shabwah, bordering North Yemen's huge oilfields in Jawf Al Baten.

Saudi Arabia provided Aden with a soft loan of \$29 million to develop its harbour and has pledged to build hospital and a housing project at a cost for \$24 million.

Diplomats say Attas, a 49-year-old technocrat, has actively sought to gain Arab acceptance with visits to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Syria and Libya.

Islamic headscarf ban divides Turkey

By David Bamford

ANKARA — A row is developing between President Kenan Evren and Turkey's Prime Minister, Mr. Turgut Ozal, over a presidential instruction to universities to ban girls from wearing Islamic-style headscarves.

The ban is being imposed last week at the start of the new term as part of President Evren's campaign to weaken the increasing influences of Islamic fundamentalism in Turkey's colleges. It follows a police crackdown in December on privately run college dormitories in Denizli and Konya where illegal Islamic sects, under the guise of charity funding organisations, were said to have

taken over.

Mr. Ozal, who was briefly a member of the now banned ultra-religious National Salvation Party in the 1970s, is said to be unhappy about President Evren's campaign against fundamentalism. Mr. Ozal, who leads the governing Motherland Party, said a compromise might allow the girls to cover their heads in "a contemporary manner."

A group of girls wearing headscarves asked for his help yesterday as he was touring the south east of the country. He told them he would do what he could.

The Motherland Party's deputy chairman, Mr. Mehmet Kececiiler — often described as the leader of the party's religious wing — was more forceful. He said, "a law that prescribes who is to wear

what and when is stupidity itself."

Mr. Kececiiler has demanded dispensation for the girls to wear headscarves on religious grounds.

President Evren warned Turkish citizens in his new year speech against rising anti-secular activities. He said the principle of secularism was a foundation stone of the republic as well as of the ideals and reforms of Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey.

President Evren said Turkey was secular but not atheist. He did not want to interfere in people's private lives, but regulations must be followed in institutions such as universities. These included the type of dress that students wore.

A ban on the wearing of Islamic headscarves technically already exists in regulations drawn up by the higher education authority,

but an increasing number of girls on campuses are wearing turbans, scarves or the full veil now obligatory in neighbouring Iran.

Hundreds of headscarved girls have been active this week in the main cities gathering support for the protest actions they say will begin if the rule is enforced.

One group of girls went to the headquarters of the left wing opposition Social Democratic Populist Party which has opposed state interference in education. But on this issue, a spokesman said, the party agreed with President Evren and was opposed to "those who are turning religion into a political tool."

President Evren: defending the principle of secularism.

J.S. Congress faces power struggle heading into 1988 election

By Donald M. Rothberg

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — High-stakes politics will be at centre stage in the new session of the U.S. Congress, with opposition Democrats in control, the Iran scandal bubbling and the fight intensifying for power in the post-Reagan era.

Congress convened this week with the Iran-contra investigation at the top of the agenda. The controversy is an opportunity for Democrats to keep Republicans on the defensive for the last two years of Ronald Reagan's term in the White House.

Democrats, who had controlled the House, gained a majority in the Senate in last November's

elections. That set the stage for confrontation with the Republican president, and political jousting already has begun as potential candidates in the 1988 presidential election vie for advantages.

If the Democrats have their way, the Iran-contra investigation will continue until next autumn and the Senate select committee's mandate will be as broad as possible.

The legislation creating the 11-member committee would have the panel issue its report Aug. 1, but left open the prospect of extending the date. That could keep it fresh in the public mind as the 1988 presidential campaign heats up.

Senate Republican leader Bob

Dole made obvious his discomfort over the prospect that the Senate investigation might last until autumn.

"We ought to be able to wrap it up sooner than that," said the Kansas senator who hopes to be the Republican candidate to succeed Reagan.

As the new Congress convened, the Republicans found themselves unsure how much political mileage was left in their former pledge to carry on the Reagan agenda.

For six years, Republican presidential aspirants measured themselves by how faithfully they would carry on the conservative agenda put in place by the popular president.

The Iran-contra affair has dented Reagan's popularity and emboldened the Democrats.

"Our first duty in this new Congress is the restoration of public trust in the formulation of American foreign policy," Senate majority leader Robert Byrd, a Democrat, said after the Senate convened with his party in control for the first time in the Reagan presidency.

"The Iran misadventure has hurt the presidency, made a shambles of American foreign policy," Byrd said.

"There are too many other problems, domestic and foreign problems, that are not going to go away," Dole responded. "They cannot, and should not, be swept aside because of an obsession with

the Iranian affair."

There are other problems, and the 100th Congress would be wise not to ignore them.

Last week, the president sent Congress a \$1-trillion budget. In line with the pattern of past years, both Republicans and Democrats said the president's plan wouldn't pass and set to work setting their own spending priorities.

Members of Congress, as well as private economists, questioned the economic assumptions that helped the administration project a reduction of the deficit to \$108 billion, a figure that would meet the target set by the Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction law.

Budget deficits are a touchy

political problem, and the Democrats don't want to be in a position in which Reagan could accuse them of raising taxes and spending more money.

Byrd is hinting he might bring the Reagan budget to the Senate floor for a vote that would surely put Republicans as well as Democrats on record against it.

"I don't think we ought to do it," said Sen. Pete Domenici, who was chairman of the budget committee when Republicans controlled the Senate. "It's meaningless. We don't do that on anything. We go through committees. That's the normal way."

But things may not go the normal way in this Congress.

UNRWA sponsors self-supporting jobs for Palestinian refugees

By Fred Donovan
Special to the Jordan Times

WEARING a *thoub*, a traditional embroidered Palestinian dress, Fatah Khalil Subah stands in the entrance of her grocery shop in the Baqa'a camp, one of the six Palestine refugee camps set up in Jordan following the 1967 war. Her small children gather around her, eyeing the stranger who has just arrived.

Mohammad Ali Nawas, the welfare officer for UNRWA's Baqa'a area, explains to her that the newcomer would like to write an article on her fledgling business, one of a number of such self-supporting projects in Baqa'a camp. UNRWA began this self-supporting programme in 1983; now, 55 such projects are operating in Jordan.

"Would you like some coffee?" Ms. Subah inquires. After coffee is served, she answers some questions about the shop. She explains that the income from the shop is enough to pay her family expenses. When her income is above the minimum for UNRWA welfare hardship assistance, she will be taken off the ration list. Asked if she thinks she can manage, she says with a smile, "Inshallah."

Ms. Subah, a 46-year-old widow with six children, is a beneficiary of the self-supporting programme begun by UNRWA in 1983. For her project, started in April of last year, UNRWA provided JD763 to set up the shop, and JD 163 to renovate the room-turned-shop adjoining her residence. This amount was sufficient, but "I would have preferred JD 1,500. Look at all these goods in the shop," she says as she sweeps her arm in a half circle, indicating the shelves that line the walls.

According to Omar Al Marri, UNRWA's field welfare officer for Jordan, the programme was originally conceived by Mr. Peter Holdaway, the director of relief in Vienna, to employ disabled refugees who had been sent to Syria for technical training. After a trial period, UNRWA decided to restrict the programme only to hardship cases. "We thought that those who were not hardship cases could be supported by their families," states Mr. Marri.

"If the beneficiaries succeed, they are replaced on the hardship rolls. This makes room for others,

since we only can take a limited number of hardship cases, asserts Mr. Marri. As of June 1986, according to UNRWA statistics, there were 20,683 refugees in Jordan qualifying as hardship cases out of a refugee population of 828,000 registered in Jordan.

To qualify as a hardship case, a family has to be without a male supporter, and/or below a certain income level depending on the family size, according to Mr. Marri. The minimum monthly income varies from JD43 to JD63 depending on the size of the family. Included in the hardship cases are families with male members between 18-60 who are handicapped, permanently or temporarily ill, attending school, or serving compulsory military service.

Ms. Subah qualifies because she is a widow and because her oldest son is serving his military service. Whenever he is allowed to go home, every 20 days or so, he helps but in the shop, according to her. Her second oldest, who is attending a technical school, also helps out when he is home. Even her younger children help out at the shop when Subah goes for her daily literacy classes in the afternoon.

A few blocks away, Mohammad Abu Shanab has a repair shop. It is a small shop with broken heaters, stoves, and lamps lining the walls and floor. A flame from a burner which he uses to repair metal goods lights the shop.

UNRWA provided Mr. Abu Shanab, in November last year, with JD 700 for his equipment and parts, and another JD 100 for the building.

Asked if he had any prior experience with this kind of work before he set up the shop, he replies, "I have been working this trade since I was 15 years old." He is now 58 with a wife and 10 children.

Behind him, hanging on the wall, is his walking stick. "I have rheumatic pains. I need it (the stick) to walk," he explains.

Prior to coming to Baqa'a camp in 1968 in the aftermath of the Israeli shelling and fighting in the Jordan Valley Mr. Abu Shanab lived for sometime in Karameh camp in the valley. He now lives off the income he earns from his business, having been taken off the hardship list. Though he would prefer to continue receiving rations, he finds that he earns

"enough for necessities." He recently went to Amman and spent JD 60 on shopping, according to Mr. Nawas. "So he is earning enough," Mr. Nawas says.

Ibrahim Mohammad Amari is less optimistic about the self-supporting programme. He has a small grocery shop in Baqa'a camp which UNRWA provided with JD 600 as seed money in August 1984. "Nobody buys the goods," he complains.

His 17-year-old, Abdullah, helps out with the business. Though he too is negative about the project, he says that they do sell packs of cigarettes and newspapers. "We sell around 100 newspapers a day," he states.

The two work from 6 in the morning until 8 at night, according to them. The father injured his leg when he was struck by a motorcycle, the son relates. He has trouble getting around; he has to use a cane.

In addition to helping his father, Abdullah studies at an industrial school. He lives with his seven brothers and sisters and his parents in three rooms in the back of the shop.

Neither the father nor the son considers the shop sufficient to sustain them. Asked if he would rather have the shop or be on rations, the father responds, "I'd rather take rations."

A stark contrast is the shop of Jaber Mohammad Thaher. Located in the market area of the camp, Mr. Thaher's nick-nack shop is booming, despite road construction which has piled up mounds of dirt by the shop entrance. He sells dishes, cooking utensils, toys, perfume, and odds and ends.

With his 16-year-old son, Mohammad, helping out, he serves five customers in the span of the 15 minutes of the interview. In between customers, he tries to answer questions about his business.

"Some days are like this," he says in reference to the number of customers. As his son gift-wraps a set of dishes for one of the buyers, he relates that he makes JD 3 in profit per day. "That's enough," he says. "It's enough for necessities."

Besides his eldest son, the 40-year-old Palestinian has 7 other children. At the time, March 1985, UNRWA gave him the JD 1,100 for seed money. Mr. Thaher could barely see. Now, he wears



(Above) the Baqa'a refugee camp and (right) Hasan Mubashir, 30, another recipient of an UNRWA grant to help him open his own watch repair shop. His shop is in Baqa'a camp, where he has lived since 1968. He learned his trade from a watchmaker in the camp. Khalid Nasser (UNRWA photos)

special contact lenses paid for by UNRWA.

"It makes me feel good when I see that," states Mr. Nawas, after the interview with Mr. Thaher. "I feel like I am accomplishing something," Mr. Nawas estimates that within his area of operations, the Baqa'a area, there are 5,254 special hardship cases. Of these, 17 are participating in the self-supporting programme, with only 2 failures since the programme was begun. About the limited number of people participating, he explains: "Many people think that rations are permanent; they don't want to take chances."

Mr. Nawas offers this observation about the psychological benefits of the self-supporting programme. "The beneficiary feels that he is a productive member again, and will be able to support his family instead of being a burden."



Did the Welsh come from N. Africa?

The following report by David Bamford is reprinted from The Guardian

THE long-standing belief that Wales is populated by people springing from a common Celtic root receives a sharp rebuff in a survey published early this month.

Genetic and Population Studies in Wales, a survey of 24,000 blood donors in the principality, claims that folk in North Wales are closely related to the Berbers of North Africa and probably arrived in Wales long before Celts from Cornwall and Brittany settled in the south.

The survey was undertaken by Dr. Morgan Watkin, a former deputy director of the Blood Transfusion Service for Wales and medical officer for Cardigan.

It was based on the frequency with which blood groups A, B and O were found among donors of Welsh ancestry. When their

families' home locations were pinpointed, a line running from west to east across Wales divided the country into distinct halves in which the O gene showed up with markedly differing frequencies.

Dr. Watkin comments: "The rise in O does not occur gradually, but in a couple of abrupt steps, the main one running from the shores of Cardigan Bay south of Aberystwyth across the Cambrian mountains to the southern slope of the Severn valley near Llanidloes."

The demarcation line coincides with a series of earthworks which archaeologists believe were thrown up by tribes who regarded one another with considerable distrust — The Guardian

Genetic and Population Studies in Wales, University of Wales Press, 6 Gwyneth Street, Cardiff, CF2 4YD, £27.

West German garbage — a business as well as a responsibility

By Douglas Hamilton
Reuter

BONN — Citizens of the West German federal capital this month received their 1987 guide to garbage, a 40-page illustrated encyclopedia of waste and waste disposal.

The directory, updated annually to keep pace with the advancing science of recycling and environmental protection, contains a lexicon of rubbish from *abladegenehmigung* (dumping authorisation) to *zigarettenkippen* (cigarette butts).

In between, it describes over 100 varieties of trash, including batteries, chip fat, dirty diapers, dung, jam-jars, strip-lights, glue, dead dogs, Christmas trees and window frames.

All this, plus of course, what to do with it and when.

A full year's dates are provided, indicating when it is permissible to put out special waste such as paper or old furniture, for collection.

Bonn, like all West German urban communities, employs garbage scouts among its 185 refuse disposal operatives to patrol the bins and make sure waste discrimination regulations are obeyed.

One bemused resident of the 1,100-year-old dormitory suburb of Oberwinter, a recently-arrived American, had a dozen bulging bags of Christmas garbage rejected because it was packed in the blue plastic sacks instead of the regulation-issue orange bags.

Garden cuttings, one resident was recently informed, had not been removed from outside his home because they were packed improperly. A few innocent shards of glass disqualified a plain cardboard box from pick-up on a paper collection day.

But on "sperrmüll" (bulky refuse) days, which fall only four times a year, the scouts hardly get a look-in.

The "bulky refuse," a euphemism for the worn armchairs, old toasters or smelly fridges thrown out rather than sold in West Germany's proudly affluent society, is usually picked clean before day breaks.

Fleets of eagle-eyed second-hand dealers, students, and immigrants prowling the early-morning streets in battered vans in a race for choice cast-offs.

One reasonably well-off foreign

resident recalled how he had once furnished an entire apartment from Cologne's *sperrmüll*.

"My haul included a double kitchen sink and a huge pine bookcase which I stripped down and later shipped home to England."

But such amateurs have to rise very early in the morning to beat the *sperrmüll* fleet, which is no doubt studying the garbage collection timetable like a form book to devise its 1987 plan of action with businesslike efficiency.

The city also provides 270 special communal depositories for glass (no smashing bottles after 8 p.m. or on weekends), barrels for used car oil and phone-in advice for citizens on the correct disposal of old medicines, tyres and mercury thermometers.

If the dog dies and there is no garden in which to bury it (minimum legal grave depth 50 cm/20 inches) the municipality will incinerate the pet at its *kleintierkoerperpersammelstelle* (collection point for the corpses of small animals).

"West German homes yield an average 380 kg of garbage a year and paper or plastic wrapping makes up nearly half of the annual 24 million tonnes total," the garbage guide says.

"Households in Bonn (with a population just over 300,000) produce enough each day to cover a football field one metre deep in rubbish."

It exhorts citizens to reject the ubiquitous plastic bag, the cellophane-wrapped vegetable and the throwaway can or bottle (6.7 billion of which are dumped each year), to compost their bio-degradables and to use the old rubber plunger instead of caustic chemicals when drains get blocked.

"We know today that affluence cannot be equated with quality of life if reckless handling of waste of all kinds so burdens our environment to the point that even our health is threatened," the guide reminds.

"As the last few years have shown, the people of our city are prepared to do their bit."

But not all residents are as meticulous as the authorities would wish.

"Yes, I did get that book through the letter-box," said one woman in a suburban block of flats. "I threw it in the dustbin."

Why Iraq's rivers turned saline?

By Alan George

LONDON, England — The Shatt al Arab in Iraq forms the joint estuary of the great Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Ten years ago, a British firm of consultants recommended that it should be used as the source for a new water supply system for Iraq's second largest city, the Gulf port of Basra.

Since then, as a result of a series of major Iraqi water engineering schemes, the Shatt al Arab has become too saline. Consequently, the supply scheme for Basra, which was recently tendered, will have a different water source over 200 kilometres north of the city.

Perhaps the biggest single cause, albeit indirect, of the rising salinity has been the Samarra Barrage, completed in 1958, on the Tigris north of the capital Baghdad. Its function is to protect Baghdad from flooding in Spring, when the river is swollen with snow-melt from the mountains to the north. The barrage diverts water into the Tharthar depression, a natural basin in the desert to the northwest of Baghdad. There, a vast lake has formed, but its waters are highly saline because of rapid evaporation and leaching.

In order to allow Lake Tharthar's water to be used for irrigation, it was resolved to flush it by means of a canal leading south from the lake, to join the Euphrates at Fallujah. This canal was completed in 1978 and carries up to 500 cubic metres of water per second. Discharge through the canal is regulated to ensure that sulphate levels in the Euphrates downstream from Fallujah do not exceed 400 milligrammes a litre. Nonetheless, the Tharthar system

is a key cause of the river's rising salinity.

Another canal from Lake Tharthar is presently under construction by the Soviet concern Jellozpromexport. Leading from a point half way along the first canal, it will join the Tigris north of Baghdad and will carry up to 600 cubic metres of water a second. This will allow additional flushing of Lake Tharthar. Again, discharge levels will be regulated, to ensure that sulphate levels in the Tigris downstream of the canal do not exceed 400 milligrammes a litre. The new canal will clearly have a significant effect on the salinity of the Tigris.

The Euphrates, which has a longer course and serves more irrigation systems, has always been more saline than the Tigris. In the past, this did not create problems in the Shatt al Arab, as the salty discharges from the Euphrates were diluted by the flow from the Tigris. Now, even without the impact that the second canal from Tharthar will have, the Tigris itself has become saline in its lower reaches as a result of a series of new demands on its flow.

The Samarra Barrage diverts large volumes of water into Lake Tharthar. North of Mosul, impoundment is under way at the Eski Mosul dam. In the south, the Iraqis have pumped huge amounts of water from the river, to flood vast areas along their front lines as part of the defences in the Gulf War. The smaller resultant flow in the Tigris means that less water is going into the extensive marshlands along the lower reaches of both the Tigris and the Euphrates. With less flushing, run-off from these lowlands have become more saline.

The rising salinity of the Shatt al Arab has necessitated a radical rethink of the Basra water supply scheme. A report by the British consultants Binnie and Partners recommended that the project should use water from the river Gharraf, a major irrigation canal leading south from Kut, which is on the Tigris about two-thirds of the way to Baghdad. The water of the river Gharraf is of acceptable quality, and could be treated conventionally before entering a 230 kilometre-long pipeline that would carry 100 million gallons of water a day south to Basra and several nearby towns.

That capacity could be expanded to 250 million gallons a day in future stages. Tenders for the project have just been issued, and it is hoped that construction contracts will be awarded before the end of the year.

The Basra scheme could pave the way for a long-mooted project to export Iraqi water to neighbouring Kuwait. Initial studies for such a scheme, involving a water intake on the Shatt al Arab, were prepared some 20 years ago by British and Swedish consultants. Progress was stalled by the lack of water sales agreement between the two states, while the Shatt's rising salinity meant that the intake would have had to be sited far to the north, entailing a much costlier project than had been anticipated.

Now an accord on water sales is reportedly being negotiated, and the Basra scheme would solve the intake problem. The Kuwaitis will soon be inviting firms to bid for a feasibility study on a pipeline leading from Basra — Earthscan feature.

King, Queen arrive in Paris

(Continued from page 1)

His Majesty was speaking at a dinner hosted in his honour by President Francois Mitterrand.

His Majesty went on to say that persistence in ignoring justice and continued denial of other peoples' legitimate rights have so far obstructed the achievement of peace and opened the way to extremism in the region.

"Terrorism in its various forms, including state terrorism such as the one practised recently in occupied Jerusalem, is the result of this extremism which has succeeded in weakening the forces of moderation and diverting attention from the core of the problem, the King said. "Israel's continued occupation and colonisation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Syrian Golan Heights, during the era of decolonisation is disgraceful and a cause of condemnation for the international community for being lenient on the issue of peoples' rights to freedom and self-determination."

"A concerted international effort has become extremely essential to settle the Arab-Israeli dispute before next June's 20th anniversary of Israel's occupation of Arab lands," the King added.

His Majesty voiced the hope that an international conference

on Middle East peace would convene before this anniversary so that an end could be put to the agony of the Palestinian people.

Noting that Jordanians have been closely linked to the Palestinian land and peoples by virtue and national, historical and geographical factors, His Majesty said Jordan throughout the past 40 years adopted a policy of positive cooperation with any sincere effort designed to achieve a just peace in accordance with principles incorporated in the United Nations Charter.

The King went on to say that to rid the region of the current stalemate and the possible out-break of destructive wars, an even-handed collective international effort needs to be launched to help the parties involved in the conflict to solve their problems in accordance with international law and world conventions.

King Hussein also called for dealing with regional problems outside the sphere of superpower rivalry.

Referring to the Lebanese crisis, the King said Jordan supports any Arab effort that would assist in reaching national reconciliation among the Lebanese factions.

"To reach such a goal, foreign powers, foremost of which is

Israel, which occupies a portion of South Lebanon must cease to play negative roles in Lebanon's internal affairs. Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon on the basis of Security Council resolutions, is a pre-requisite for the achievement of national reconciliation and restoring stability in Lebanon," the King said.

On the Iraq-Iran war, the King said that the 6-year-old conflict continues to threaten stability in the whole Gulf region and jeopardises the interests of many nations.

He said the conflict is continuing because the world community is not giving sufficient attention to the tragic consequences of the war, and due to Iran's intransigent stand toward peace attempts.

His Majesty stressed the need for closer Euro-Arab cooperation as the key for stability in both Europe and the neighbouring Middle East.

His Majesty praised France's stand toward efforts to reach a just Middle East peace. He said France has always acted fairly and logically in calling for a balanced solution that guarantees the rights of all peoples in the region to existence and security and recognises the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

One reasonably well-off foreign

Astronomer reports solving of ancient Chinese riddle

By Lee Siegel
The Associated Press

PASADENA, California — An American astronomer says he has the answer to the ancient Chinese riddle about the time "the day dawned twice." It was a solar eclipse in 899 B.C.

Kevin D. Pang says the key to the riddle was discovering that a day on earth was 43-thousandths of a second shorter in 899 B.C. than it is today and pinpointing the date of a Zhou dynasty king's reign.

Pang, an astronomer with the U.S. Space Agency, presented his study recently to the annual meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

The finding was based on study of ancient Chinese chronicles by Pang, physicist Kevin C. Yau, of the University of Durham, England and Hung-Hsiang Chou, of the East Asian language and cultures department of the University of California, Los Angeles.

The chronicles, called the Bamboo Annals because they were written on bamboo strips, recorded "all important events from the earlier in China down to about 299 B.C.," Pang said. "It was probably passed down through the ages and was constantly updated by the (royal) court chroniclers."

One passage in the annals says: "In the spring of the first year of

the reign of King 1 of the western Zhou dynasty, the day dawned twice at a place called Zheng."

Zheng is near the present-day Hua district in Shaanxi province.

Pang and his colleagues performed a computer simulation of the history of the rotation of the earth around the sun and of the moon around the earth. They determined the annals must have referred to a near-eclipse of the sun by the moon shortly after dawn on April 21, 899 B.C.

"We solved the riddle of an ancient text, which is of historical interest because it puts an exact date (year) on the beginning of the king's reign, which wasn't known until now," Pang said.

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Dyke earns match with Becker in Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Italian Claudio Pistolesi and Brod Dyke of Australia scored first-round victories Monday in the \$1.65 million Australian Open tennis championships at Kooyong, but both earned extremely tough second-round encounters.

Pistolesi came from two sets down to defeat Michael Robertson of South Africa 5-7, 2-6, 6-3, 7-6, 9-7 and next will face 11th-seeded Australian grass court specialist Pat Cash in the second round.

Dyke thrashed Christian Minussi of Argentina 6-2, 6-1, 7-5 and will meet Wimbledon champion Boris Becker of West Germany in his second round encounter.

Play in the two-week Grand Slam tournament, which is being played at Kooyong for the final time before switching to the new National Tennis Center in downtown Melbourne, began in warm temperatures Monday under cloudless skies.

Stefan Edberg of Sweden is the defending champion in the men's singles, while Martina Navratilova of the United States is defending the women's crown.

All seeded players have been given first-round byes in this, the smallest of the four Grand Slam tournaments. The other Grand Slam events, all of which feature full 132-player draws in both men's and women's singles, are the French and U.S. Opens and Wimbledon.

At Kooyong, American Danny Saltz and Johan Carlsson of Sweden were among other early first-round men's singles winners.

Saltz defeated West Germany's Patrick Kuhne 6-4, 6-3, 6-3, while Carlsson ousted qualifier Christian Seceanu of West Germany 4-6, 7-6, 6-3, 7-6.

Carlsson's victory sends him against another Swede, ninth-seeded Anders Jarryd, in the second round.

Hu Na, the Chinese-born American, and her compatriots Alicia Moulton and Camille Benjamin were opening-round

winners in the women's singles action.

Hu rallied to defeat Australian Michelle Jaggard 7-6, 2-6, 6-0, while Moulton ousted West Germany's Claudia Forwick 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, and Benjamin fought back to down Australian Elizabeth Minter 0-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Hu next will face the women's no. 4 seed, Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia.

Scott Davis of the United States had to battle for over three hours to defeat veteran Australian Davis Cup member Peter McNamara in another men's first-round match.

Davis, 24, eventually prevailed 7-6, 6-4, 2-6, 3-6, 6-4 after McNamara, ranked 336th in the world, led 3-0 in the final set.

In other first-round matches, South African Christo Van Rensburg defeated former Wimbledon junior champion Leonardo Lavalle of Mexico 6-3, 6-4, 0-6, 6-4; Todd Nelson of the United States breezed past Canadian Grant Connell 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; and Javier Frana of Argentina downed another Canadian, Glenn Michibata, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Peruvian runner is 'unfashionably' late

MIAMI (AP) — A Peruvian runner who realised he was late for a marathon jumped into the race wearing slacks and leather loafers and ran 35 kilometres to the finish line, arriving before some properly attired runners who started on time did. Felix Alejandro Flores Pacheco, 30, arrived in Miami early Saturday, a full day before the Orange Bowl Marathon — or so he thought. It was not until 9 a.m. that he realised the race had started nearly two hours earlier. He rushed for the starting point, but traffic stopped his taxi four miles (six kilometres) away, forcing the runner to join in at that point. Flores, who carried his leather duffel bag for seven miles before dumping it onto a truck following the runners, finished 22 miles of the 26-mile, 385-yard race. He was 3½ hours behind British postman John Boyes, who won with a time of 2:23:22, but still two hours ahead of the last of 1,800 runners. Sympathetic track officials, convinced he was telling the truth, gave him a medal for finishing the race.

Table tennis championships to be held

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian table tennis championships will be held in Amman in the coming week and at least 20 youth centres are expected to participate in the matches, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Youth. It said that the final matches will be held on Jan. 28. The announcement also said that the Ministry of Youth will host the 10th Asian table tennis tournament in Amman in 1990 in response to a nomination made by the Arab Table Tennis Federation.

Sports delegation leaves for Tunis

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation leaves Amman today for Tunis to take part in the six day meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports, to be held here on Tuesday. Conference will discuss a number of issues, including evaluation of programmes and activities carried out during last year and results of a pan-Arab meeting for sports federation secretaries, which was held in Amman some time ago. They will also discuss a report about the forthcoming Arab school sports tournament and will approve a draft amendment to the Palestine Tournament Cup.

'That's not cricket'

SYDNEY (R) — Cricket star Ian Botham's favourite bat has been stolen from the England dressing room at the Sydney ground, sports officials said Monday. The extra-large bat, with which Botham has swatted mighty sixes straight out of cricket grounds around the world, was among several valuable items of equipment taken by thieves during the night. Also missing are two bats and a pair of batting gloves belonging to wicketkeeper Bruce French and the bat being currently used by Jack Richards in the fifth test match against Australia. Another of Botham's bats was also taken.

Diving centre's board to be formed

AQABA (Petra) — A decision has been taken to form a board of directors for the Royal Diving Centre (RDC), which was inaugurated under the royal patronage in November. The new board, which is presided over by Mr. Bassam Qaqaish, Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) chairman, comprises the secretary general of ARA, the director general of the Tourism Authority, director general of the Jordan Youth Organisation, dean of the Faculty of Physical Education at the University of Jordan, director of the Maritime Sciences Station, commander of the Royal Coast Guard, director of the RDC, and two members drawn from the private sector.

No. 1 Davis wins snooker title

BLACKPOOL, England (R) — World number one Steve Davis snooker to win fellow-Englishman Jimmy White 13-12 in a thrilling final to win the Merchantile Credit Classic snooker title. After squandering a winning chance by missing an easy red ball in the 24th frame on Sunday, Davis trailed 55-0 in the deciding 25th before striking back to capture the frame 75-35, and with it his fourth successive title this season. The ginger-haired Davis, beaten in the final of the last two World Championships, earned £50,000 (\$75,000) to bring his prize money for the season to almost £200,000 (\$300,000).

Giants to face Broncos in Super Bowl

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (R) — Quarterback Phil Simms passed for one touchdown and Joe Morrisran for another, as the New York Giants shut out the Washington Redskins 17-0 to win the National Football Conference title and a trip to the Super Bowl against the Denver Broncos.

Denver defeated the Cleveland Browns 23-20 in overtime in Cleveland earlier Monday to win the American Football Conference Championship.

The Giants defence, rated by many the best in football, limited the Redskins rushing game to just 40 yards in 16 carries. The teams had to battle winds of 25 miles an hour (40 kilometre).

New York sacked "skins" quarterback Jay Schroeder four times and intercepted him once. He completed 20 of 50 passes for 195 yards and was intercepted once.

Schroeder, who was battered by the tough Giant defence all afternoon, collapsed on the sidelines at the end of the game and was taken to hospital with

what Washington coach Joe Gibbs said was a mild concussion.

The Giants scored on their first possession of the game, when Raul Allegre capped a six-play drive with a 47-yard field goal.

The Giants made it 10-0 on their second possession of the game when Simms hit Lionel Manuel on an eleven-yard pass.

The touchdown strike followed a 30-yard pass from Simms to tight end Mark Bavaro to put the ball on the Washington 17-yard line.

The Giants completed the scoring for the game in the second quarter, when running back Joe Morris finished off a six-play drive, with a one-yard plunge into the end zone. The 49-yard drive featured a 25-yard pass to Manuel to get the Giants to the 11-yard line.

Simms threw 14 times with seven completions for 90 yards, one touchdown and no interceptions. He was sacked once.

The Broncos earned their ticket to the Super Bowl Jan. 25 in Pasadena, California, after tying

the Browns with just 37 seconds remaining in regulation time.

The Browns had taken a 20-13 lead on a field goal and a 48-yard pass from quarterback Bernie Kosar to Brian Brennan.

But Denver quarterback John Elway came back with a 98-yard drive, capped by a five-yard touchdown pass to force the game into sudden-death overtime.

Cleveland won the overtime coin toss and elected to receive, but Denver shut it down, forcing it to punt.

Starting on its own 25-yard line, Denver gained a few yards on the ground before Elway hit tight end Orson Mobley with a 22-yard pass. Elway followed up with a 28-yarder to Steve Watson to put the ball on the Browns' 22-yard line.

A couple of plays later Rich Karsis kicked the game-winning field goal.

The Giants have never played in the Super Bowl and Denver lost its only Super Bowl appearance against the Dallas Cowboys in 1977.

Euro soccer roundup

Napoli tops league at halfway mark

LONDON (R) — Diego Maradona believes peace, love and understanding are the reasons behind Napoli leading the Italian First Division at the halfway stage of the season for the first time in its 60-year history.

Sunday's 3-0 victory over Ascoli helped Napoli to leapfrog over Internazionale, beaten 2-1 by Verona, and open a two-point gap at the top.

Maradona said the team's success was all down to teamwork, the friendship between players and the respect the team had for its coach.

"I'm proud to be captain of this Napoli team. None of us drag our feet and no-one complains when they're left out ... and then we are all very happy to make the people of Naples so happy," he said.

Inter was beaten thanks to two goals from Verona striker Preben Elkjaer, the second coming just two minutes before the final whistle.

Argentina beats Brazil in Pele Cup

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — Argentina defeated Brazil 3-1 in the Pele Cup soccer tournament.

The goal scorers for Argentina were Pedro Gonzalez at 21 minutes and Oscar Mas at 36 and 61 minutes. Jairzinho scored at 83 minutes for Brazil.

The win Sunday moved Argentina into a tie for first place with Brazil, Uruguay and West Germany. All teams have 3 points, but Brazil has played one more game in the tournament, organised for players over 34 years old from countries that have won the World Cup at least twice. Italy has no points and was eliminated.

TENDER CHANGE

The Civil Aviation Authority/ Airports Investment Committee announces that, due to a modification of related documents, bidders are advised that acceptance of offers for tender No. ODG/5/86 (Advertisement Boxes at Queen Alia International Airport) has been postponed until 28th, February 1987. Bidders will be provided with modified copies in due course.

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(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: IRONY EXPEL PLOWED GUILTY
Answer: What happened when the price of duck

Enrile predicts renewed bloody war with rebels

MANILA (R) — Ousted Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile Monday predicted a renewed bloody war with Communist rebels and warned President Corason Aquino she would lose her right to rule the Philippines if voters reject her new constitution.

Mr. Enrile, the country's defence minister for almost 20 years, told reporters at a weekly interview forum that if the constitution was rejected in the Feb. 2 plebiscite, as he thinks it will, Mrs. Aquino will have lost her right to govern.

"Mrs. Aquino would have no moral authority over Filipinos to be their president. That would be the most tragic situation," said Mr. Enrile, who is leading the fight against the constitution.

"You would have somebody as president... who would be the subject of disobedience by the people," said the man sacked by Mrs. Aquino last November amid reports that his followers plotted a coup.

But asked if she would have the authority to govern should the constitution be approved, Mr.

Enrile conceded that she would. He added that the vote had turned into a one-sided presidential election.

"Mrs. Aquino is running for the presidency without an opponent," Mr. Enrile said, quoting a local newspaper columnist.

He said he was against the ceasefire now in effect between rebels and the government because it would only "bring a lull in the fighting that is not peace as we understand it."

He added: "Sooner or later the lull will be broken and when that break happens then the fighting will be more intense, will be more bloody and we will have more casualties on both sides."

Mr. Enrile said that by the time ceasefire breaks, the rebel New People's Army will have improved its supplies and retrained its

troops while the Philippine army would be in a state of "inertia" and need to be reconditioned.

He spoke on the weekly "Kapitan Sa Manila" interview forum normally broadcast by government-owned television station channel 4.

But the station has refused to air the interview, amid charges of censorship, and a private station will instead carry the programme.

Mr. Enrile said the decision not to carry the interview was similar to the censorship during the rule of ousted President Ferdinand Marcos, whom Mr. Enrile helped overthrow in last February's military revolt.

Meanwhile, leaders of the rebels said they would like to see an extension of the 60-day ceasefire which expires on Feb. 8.

At their weekly news briefing, Communist peace negotiators accused the military of stepping up its operations against the rebels.

"There are reports of arrests and apprehensions of NDF (National Democratic Front) members and sympathisers," said negotiator Carolina Malay.

China sacks 2 academics over protests

PEKING (R) — China said Monday it had sacked two senior academic whom it accused of causing nationwide student demonstrations calling for more democracy and freedom.

The official New China News Agency said Guan Weiyan and Fang had been removed from the posts of president and vice-president respectively of the Science and Technology University in the central city of Hefei where the month-long unrest began.

It said Fang, 51, a physicist who has lectured abroad and received international awards, would be assigned as a research fellow at the Peking Observatory.

The agency made no mention of widespread reports that Fang, known to be popular among students, had been expelled from the Communist Party. But it accused him of "attempting to shake off the party's leadership."

It said: "His ideas have resulted in vicious consequences in the university and were also illustrated in the recent student unrest there."

The month-long campaign for democracy, in which tens of thousands of students defied authorities to stage demonstrations in at least 12 cities.

Students say Fang visited Shanghai shortly before tens of thousands of people took to the streets there at the end of last month.

The agency quoted party Central Committee member Zhou Guangzhao as telling a meeting at the University in Hefei: "In a fairly long period of time Fang Lizhi made many erroneous statements of bourgeois liberalisation."

Mr. Zhou added: "The university leading body must be reorganised to ensure the leadership of the party and state and the implementation of the education policy of the party and state."

Western diplomats said earlier Monday that it appeared the party leadership, headed by Deng Xiaoping had decided to make Fang a scapegoat to placate hard-line conservatives outraged by the students' demands.

Deaths, chaos follow Europe's big freeze

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet railway workers, soldiers and volunteers Monday struggled to unravel rail chaos caused by the coldest January since 1950, which has caused 48 deaths and put fresh strains on the economy.

A killer cold snap is sweeping across Europe and record low temperatures have been reported, with Eastern Siberia the coldest recorded place at minus 60 degrees Centigrade (minus 76 degrees Fahrenheit).

In Sweden, the army was called out to take food and medicine to thousands of homes cut off by snow and ice and Sunday services were cancelled because the church heating equipment could not cope with the cold.

Swedish electricity companies appealed to people to reduce their consumption Monday because the country's electricity network could collapse if usage was not cut down.

Cold weather swept as far south as Italy, and Radio Rome reported Sunday night that temperatures had dropped below freezing in northern parts of the country.

The main Moscow television news programme Vremya (time) said Sunday night that thousands of wagons, mostly loaded with coal, were standing in sidings in chaos caused by severe frosts across the country.

It said the situation was improving but the sudden drop in temperature had revealed a lack of readiness in a population which should know better about the effects of cold.

A particular problem had built up along the Far-Eastern coast, where ships were lined up waiting to take export goods from the railways, the television added, criticising the Ministry of Foreign Trade for slowness in easing the crisis.

Official newspapers reported earlier that the cold, in which 48 people have died in fires caused by defective heaters, was starting to hit the economy.

Energy extraction and distribution have been affected while fuel consumption has risen despite appeals for domestic users to save electricity. Soviet oil exports are not expected to be affected immediately, however.

The windows of Russian homes are now plugged with cotton wool and strips of paper blocking every crack against the frost.

But many people are still cold at home and congregate for warmth in the kitchen, where the stove is

invariably kept switched on against the instructions of the cartoon character Kilowattick, who appeals nightly on television for fuel savings.

The campaign began even before the cold snap started, as the Soviet Union was facing an energy shortfall in part owing to the Chernobyl nuclear accident last April.

The cold is fun for young children, who are being kept home from school, but tedious for their parents who can't start their cars in the mornings and still have to be at work on time.

The television weather forecast Sunday night predicts snow, and continuing extreme cold.

The cold caused two deaths in Sweden at the weekend when a passenger train smashed into a railway engine at Stode station, north of Stockholm. Officials said it looked as though a frozen switch had diverted the train to the wrong track.

In Poland, which is having the coldest weather since 1963, PAP news agency Sunday said that rescuers in the southern Tatra Mountains found the body of a young climber who was reported missing on Thursday.

Budapest radio reported that crossing points have been closed on the border with Austria and Czechoslovakia, and on the Budapest-Vienna Highway 150 cars were trapped in the snow.

The official Czechoslovak News Agency CTK said temperatures which plunged to below minus 20 degrees C (minus four F) in many parts of the country over the weekend were expected to continue until late in the week.

Temperatures were close to a record low throughout Britain Sunday, reaching a maximum of minus three degrees C (37.4 F), weathermen said.

British newspapers reported seven deaths related to freezing temperatures Sunday, including a female climber who slipped down an icy rock face at Ben More in central Scotland.

A man and two teenage boys were found dead in Chester, central England, after apparently being overcome by fumes from a gas heater while they slept.

Three pensioners were found dead from cold in their homes in the Thames Valley, southern England.

Police tried to slow down traffic after a series of accidents Sunday on an ice-bound section of the M25 motorway circling the British capital.

Anthony Quinn honoured

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Hollywood Foreign Press Association has selected actor Anthony Quinn to receive the organisation's Cecil B. DeMille Award. The award, to be presented at the 44th annual Golden Globe Awards on Jan. 31 in Beverly Hills, recognises outstanding contributions in entertainment. Quinn, 71, has won two Academy Awards for best supporting actor. He won an Oscar in 1952 for "Viva Zapata" and in 1956 for "Lust for Life." He also received Oscar nominations for "Wild is the Wind" in 1957 and "Zorba the Greek" in 1964.

Prince Edward quits Royal Marines

LONDON (AP) — Prince Edward, youngest son of Queen Elizabeth II, resigned from the Royal Marines Monday, Buckingham Palace announced. A statement from the palace said the 22-year-old prince had concluded "that he does not wish to make the service his long-term career." Prince Edward, fifth in line to the throne, quit the elite force after four months of a gruelling year-long officers' training programme, the prelude to an obligatory nine-year enlistment. No indication was given of his future plans or the specific reasons for his resignation. Prince Edward met his commanding officer, Col. Ian Moore, for 10 minutes Monday morning at the Marines' Command Training Depot at Lympstone, Devon before the decision was announced.

Pope baptises 50 babies

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II on Sunday baptised 50 babies from 10 countries in a new year tradition started in 1980. Thirty boys and 20 girls were christened in the Vatican's Hall of Benediction. The Pope baptised 41 Italian babies and one each from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Great Britain, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland and the United States. Since initiating the tradition seven years ago, John Paul has baptised 211 babies. Before the ceremony, the Pope told the parents that by committing their children to Christianity they would become "witnesses of the revealed truth and of the Evangelical morality."

Saudi speeding motorists lashed

JEDDAH (R) — Twenty-five motorists caught by police staging races along the corniche road in Jeddah were lashed in public last Friday, the Saudi Gazette newspaper reported on Sunday. It quoted a traffic administration official as saying: "Any driver who exposes the life of innocent citizens to danger will meet the same fate."

Reformed bird returns to showbiz

LONDON (R) — Quincy the Cockatoo, once a feathered star in a troupe of performing birds before he was banned for swearing, is making a show business comeback. The white cockatoo was a member of a group at the Flamingoland zoo in north Yorkshire until last summer when he learned a four-letter word and kept repeating it. His trainer, Jackie Goulder, dropped him from the show and put him into solitary confinement until he reformed. Now Quincy has a second chance and is the star of an amateur pantomime, Robinson Crusoe, in north England this week.

2 kings, 2 queens attend christening

LONDON (AP) — Two kings and two queens attended the christening of Leonora Knatchbull, great-granddaughter of the late Earl Mountbatten. King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia of Spain and the exiled King Constantine and Queen Anne-Marie of Greece attended the ceremony Sunday at Ramsey Abbey, 80 miles southwest of London. Juan Carlos and Anne-Marie were the god-parents. Mountbatten, who was murdered by guerrillas in Ireland in 1979, was a cousin of Queen Elizabeth II and uncle of her Greek-descended husband, Prince Philip. The baby girl, daughter of Lord and Lady Ramsey, was christened Leonora Louise Marie Elizabeth Knatchbull at the 30-minute service.

Britons prefer pets to spouses

LONDON (R) — Many British people prefer their household pets to their spouses, their children, their jobs and even money, according to a survey published on Monday. One in 10 people questioned by Options magazine considered their pets more important to their happiness than their marital partners. About one in five said pets were more important than children and more than a third of those questioned thought pets were more important than a job. Nearly half of those who responded put pets above money. A total of 94 per cent said they would prefer to spend time with their pets rather than watch television. More than half of pet owners who answered the questionnaire made it clear that given the choice between staying at home with their four-legged friends and socialising with people, they would stay at home.

Americans support death penalty

NEW YORK (AP) — Eighty-six per cent of Americans support the death penalty for murder, and nearly half think executions are appropriate for other crimes as well, according to a Media General-Associated Press poll. Ten years after Gary Gilmore was executed by firing squad, support for the death penalty is the United States remains high. Only 11 per cent of Americans oppose the death penalty, and 3 per cent are unsure, according to the nationwide telephone poll of 1,251 adult Americans. Support for the death penalty crossed all religious, educational, economic and regional lines. However, there were key differences between black and white respondents. Twenty per cent of blacks supported executions in all murder cases, compared with 30 per cent for whites. One-third of blacks said there should be no death penalty, compared with 9 per cent of whites.

Lack of vitamin blinds 20,000 a year

DHAKA (R) — Vitamin A deficiency caused by over-dependence on rice permanently blinds nearly 20,000 children every year in Bangladesh, according to a survey published on Monday. The Bangladesh Research Institute survey said nearly 70 per cent of the country's 100 million people suffer from the deficiency. "Malnutrition is the root cause for vitamin A deficiency and the majority of people in Bangladesh cannot afford to take balanced food," the survey said. It said that "too much eating of rice was mainly responsible for malnutrition in Bangladesh where over 80 per cent people are living below the FAO-designated poverty line." Rice is still Bangladesh's staple food despite a government campaign for people to eat more vegetables and less rice to help to overcome the vitamin A shortfall.

Woman hanged for killing husband

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — A 30-year-old woman was hanged early Sunday for killing her husband, cutting his body into bits, stuffing the pieces into plastic bags, scattering them into different places in Suez City and setting her house afire to cover up the crime. The state-owned newspaper Al Akhbar said the hanging which it witnessed, took place at a Cairo prison called Bab El Khelek. The newspaper said Samiha Abdel Hamid said she had killed her last wish. She was allowed to do so. "I did it to save my brothers. My husband deserved the killing," Mrs. Abdel Hamid was quoted as saying.

Shultz gets hostile press reception in Lagos

LAGOS (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Lagos Monday for a 10-hour visit and ran into a hostile press reception.

But officials said American support for Nigeria's economic adjustment programme augured well for his talks with Nigerian President Gen. Ibrahim Babangida.

The talks are also expected to touch on the escalating war in neighbouring Chad and South Africa.

The Nigerian press was particularly severe Monday about U.S. policy in South Africa.

"Your government's policy of 'constructive engagement' with

racist South Africa is baffling," the leading Independent Guardian newspaper said in an editorial.

The Herald, which is owned by a state government, said: "America's policy in Africa makes it difficult to be Washington's friend."

Before leaving Nairobi, the third stop of his tour, Mr. Shultz said Kenya and the United States shared many views on both Chad and South Africa.

Nigerian Foreign Minister Bolaji Akinyemi described as positive steps U.S. sanctions on South Africa imposed by Congress over President Ronald

Rape-murder of 2 women renews riots in Karachi

KARACHI (R) — The gruesome gang-rape and murder of two young women set off fresh riots in Karachi and police opened fire after tear gas failed to disperse rioters, witnesses said Monday.

Witnesses said at least 15,000 people took to the streets at midnight in five volatile districts of Pakistan's most populous city, set ablaze vehicles and lit bonfires on roads to block fire-fighting equipment.

Doctors at a government hospital said they treated 14 people, eight of whom had been seriously injured.

Police said they resorted to firing their rifles when thousands of rioters rained down stones on police. The crowds had taken to the streets as news of the rape-murders spread through troubled districts.

Police said they arrested over 30 people on charges of arson and rioting.

Official sources said the government had given instructions to police to shoot-at-sight anyone involved in causing harm or injury to peaceful citizens.

Para-military force Eagle squads were patrolling the riot-hit areas Monday, witnesses said.

Asma Jabeen, 24, a schoolteacher, Salma Jabeen, 20, a post-graduate student, and their father, Mohammad Masoom, were kidnapped on Thursday night as they were returning from a family wedding, police said.

The abductors killed Masoom and dumped his body near his home in north Karachi the next day.

The half-naked bodies of the young women were found near a graveyard 40 kilometres east of Karachi Sunday, police said.

Doctors said after five-hour post mortems that the women had been tortured with cigarettes and that their bodies bore many knife wounds and multiple bullet wounds. They had apparently been gang-raped, the doctors said.

The crowds shouted: "Down with Zia, down with Junejo and down with Ghous," referring to President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and Sind province Chief Minister Ghous Ali Shah.

Residents of Karachi accused the government of failing to provide adequate public security following ethnic riots late last year in which at least 186 people were killed.

Those disturbances flared when Pashtuns from the country's north-west and Afghanistan attacked Mohajirs, who immigrated from other parts of former British India at independence in 1947.

In the latest incident, the stone-throwing demonstrators took to the streets to demand that police surrender the girls' bodies.

The police, who had planned to bury them immediately, later released the bodies to their relatives.

Mr. Ghous said he had formed a committee to investigate the incident.

Police told Reuters the gunmen suspected Singh of giving police information on suspected extremists who are fighting for a separate Sikh state in Punjab.

Extremists killed a government party worker they believed to be an informer along with six of his family members near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar last Thursday.

An Amritsar police officer told Reuters extremists had adopted a new form of intimidation tactics. "The terrorists are attempting to undermine the police information system in the state," he said.

Police said extremists also shot dead a police constable Monday near the industrial city of Jullundur.

The deaths brought the toll so far this year to 27 in the state where last year at least 697 people were killed in political violence, according to unofficial figures.

Chun proposes talks with N. Korean leader

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan Monday called on North Korean President Kim Il-Sung to meet him this year.

In a New Year policy speech broadcast to the nation, Mr. Chun said the Communist North should resume trade, parliamentary and Red Cross talks which were suspended by Pyongyang early last year.

"I hope also that a South-North summit meeting will take place during my term of office to achieve a breakthrough toward peace, reconciliation and unification," he said.

Mr. Chun, who Monday again pledged to step down early in 1988, said all inter-Korean issues, including the recent North Korean proposal to hold political and military talks, could be discussed at the summit meeting.

Mr. Kim last month proposed high-level political and military talks between North and South

to settle the first and most urgent question, of national reunification.

In a first official response to Mr. Kim's offer, a presidential spokesman Monday told reporters that, without a summit meeting, setting up new channels for inter-Korean talks would have no significance.

Mr. Chun Monday accused Pyongyang of building a huge dam just north of the border "out of an idle dream of communising the whole peninsula by force."

Charging the North with planning to use the dam to flood the South's most populous and vital region, Mr. Chun said: "North Korea must, first of all, cease the construction of the Kumgangsan Dam and agree to discuss the joint development of common rivers."

On domestic affairs, Mr. Chun said South Korea was currently at a critical juncture, balanced between prosperity and disaster,

as it prepared for next year's first-ever peaceful transition of power and the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games.

The president urged ruling and opposition parties to end their polarised confrontation over how to select his successor but hinted he could take tough measures if there was no compromise on constitutional reform.

"Both the government party and the opposition should exert their best efforts to forge a consensus to avoid creating an indefinitely continuing impasse which would give me no other choice as the chief executive but to make the grave decision to ensure the smooth implementation of the political timetable," he said.

The two sides are still poles apart on a new national charter. The main opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP) wants a direct poll to replace the current Electoral College system for choosing a president.

World body reports widespread drug trafficking

By George Jahn
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Drug abuse is still common in most parts of the world, and some traffickers are also involved in terrorism and gun-running, according to an annual U.N. report released Monday.

The 1986 report by the International Narcotics Control Board said that illicit drug production is more widespread than ever, and the level of abuse in some countries threatens national security. The countries were not named.

"The abuse of drugs... now affects virtually all countries and menaces all segments of society, including young persons and even children," the report noted.

"Illicit production and manufacture... takes place in a growing number of countries."

"These illicit activities are financed and master-minded by criminal organisations with international links and with accomplices in financial circles," the report said, without giving details.

"In certain regions, drug trafficking is closely inter-connected with... trafficking in weapons... subversion and international terrorism."

"The whole process undermines the economic and social order, spreads violence and corruption and imperils the very

political stability and security of some countries," the report said, again avoiding specifics.

Among instances of regional progress in the worldwide fight against illicit drug trade and consumption, it mentioned stabilising heroin use in some Asian countries.

In Western Europe, heroin remains widely available and the use of cocaine appears to be spreading, but the number of drug-related deaths seems to be stabilising and even decreasing in some countries, it said.

While discerning some increase in drug abuse in the Soviet Union and some of its Soviet bloc allies, the report said Eastern Europe remains relatively unaffected.

The report praised drug-fighting efforts by some Latin American countries.

In the United States, heroin use appears to have stabilised. Cocaine is of the greatest concern with an estimated 4 million to 5 million regular users, said the report, drawn up by the board's 13 non-governmental experts.

The International Narcotics Control Board cooperates closely with the World Health Organisation and other U.N. agencies in the prevention of drug abuse. Its report is based on data from governments, the United Nations, Interpol and other international organisations.

The 1961 convention on Narcotic drugs is formally

accepted by more than 110 countries and the 1971 convention on psychotropic substances by more than 75 nations. The board can submit drug control recommendations to states party to the two documents but has no enforcement powers.

Many countries which have not ratified the treaty provide information voluntarily. The report said that of the world's 185 countries and territories, only five — Bolivia, Kampuchea, North Korea, Liberia and Vietnam — declined to give the board drug data.

The 35-page report examined developments according to region. In the Middle East and parts of Asia "in recent years the easy availability of locally manufactured heroin has led to widespread and escalating abuse of this drug," it said.

On a country basis, heroin seizures increased tenfold since 1984 in Afghanistan, drug abuse "remains serious" in Iran, and there are 500,000 heroin users in Pakistan, said the report.

In India, Bombay and New Delhi "are afflicted by a steep rise in heroin abuse" because they are trans-shipment points for the drug, and in Sri Lanka "heroin-related offenses increased almost tenfold between 1984-1985."

Heroin abuse in Hong Kong and some other east and south east Asian points appears to have

stabilised. Abuse of the drug "remains serious" in Burma, and in Thailand "the abuse of opiates, cannabis and psychotropic substances remains high."

The report noted the following developments in some other countries and regions:

— In the Soviet Union, authorities "are increasingly concerned by the still limited but apparently growing abuse of some narcotic drugs," notably marijuana, opium derivatives and medication.

— In the United States, "Cannabis continues to be the most widely abused... although surveys show that its use by young persons has declined. Heroin use is believed to have stabilised."

...Today, the drug causing the greatest concern is cocaine, with 4 million to 5 million estimated users.

— In Canada, "cocaine is plentiful and is widely abused," and "there are also ample quantities of heroin of high purity on the illicit market."

— In Western Europe, "in several countries heroin abuse remains at a high level while in others, such abuse appears to be stabilising, and in some cases decreasing. The abuse of cocaine is now widespread and (apparently) increasing in some countries" particularly in France, West Germany and Britain.

Amphetamine abuse is also on the rise in West Germany.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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BE PREPARED!

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 10 8 7 5
♥ Q 6 2
♦ 5 3 2
♣ 6 4

WEST
♠ J 9 4 3
♥ A 8
♦ K 10 6
♣ A 9 3

EAST
♠ Q 6
♥ 7 9 5
♦ 9 7 4
♣ J 10 8 7 5 2

SOUTH
♠ K 2
♥ K J 10 7 4 3
♦ A Q 8
♣ K Q

The bidding:
South West North East
1♣ Dble 2♥ 3♠
4♥ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Ace of ♣

Just because you have been dealt an uninteresting collection of tickets doesn't mean that you can afford to take a quick nap at the table. You never know when you might have to play a key role.

North-South reached four hearts in quick time. The main point of interest is North's decision to raise to two hearts rather than bid one spade. Since he has the values for only one bid, supporting his partner's suit is eminently correct.

He can try the finesse, but West wins and can return the jack or ten of diamonds. He can't play low because you will win the trick and continue with a diamond through the queen. And rising with the ace leaves him with two diamond losers no matter what he tries to do.

Next time someone lectures you about second-hand low, show him this hand.